



Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen has resigned

By COLLEEN LONG and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen resigned on Sunday amid the administration's growing frustration and bitterness over the number of Central American families crossing the southern border, two people familiar with the decision said.

President Donald Trump

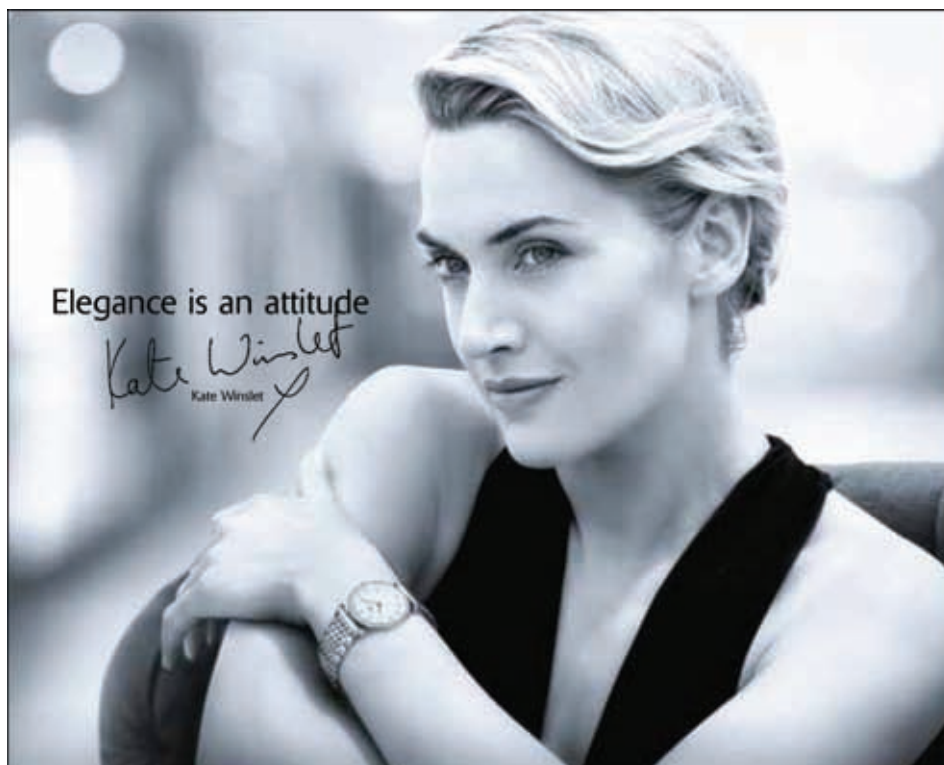
thanked her for her work in a tweet and announced U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan would be taking over as acting head of the department. McAleenan is a longtime border official who is well-respected by members of Congress and within the administration.

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In this Friday, Oct. 26, 2018, file photo, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, left, speaks with Border Patrol agents near a newly fortified border wall structure in Calexico, Calif. In a tweet on Sunday, April 7, 2019, President Donald Trump said he's accepted Nielsen's resignation.

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U.S. to designate Iran Revolutionary Guard a terrorist group

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is preparing to designate Iran's Revolutionary Guard a "foreign terrorist organization," an unprecedented move against a national armed force that could have widespread implications for U.S. personnel and policy in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Officials informed of the step said an announcement was expected Monday, after a monthslong escalation in the administration's rhetoric against Iran, its support for militia groups in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen, as well as anti-Israel groups in the region and beyond.

It would be the first such designation by any American administration of an entire foreign government entity, although portions of the Guard, notably its elite Quds Force, have been targeted previously by the United States.

Two U.S. officials and a congressional aide confirmed the planned move. They were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, seemed to anticipate the designation, saying in a tweet Sunday aimed at President Donald Trump that Trump "should know better than to be conned into another US disaster."

The designation, planning for which was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, comes with sanctions, including freezes on assets



In this Sept. 21, 2016 file photo, Iran's Revolutionary Guard troops march in a military parade marking the 36th anniversary of Iraq's 1980 invasion of Iran, in front of the shrine of late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, just outside Tehran, Iran.

Associated Press

the Guard may have in U.S. jurisdictions and a ban on Americans doing business with it or providing material support for its activities.

Although the Guard has broad control and influence over the Iranian economy, such penalties from the U.S. may have limited impact. The designation, however, could significantly complicate U.S. military and diplomatic work, notably in Iraq, where many Shiite militias and Iraqi political parties have close ties to the Guard.

In Lebanon, the designation could further restrict with whom U.S. officials can interact. The Guard has close ties to Hezbollah, which is part of the

Lebanese government. Hezbollah is already designated a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. Its presence in Lebanon's parliament and executive branch have forced the U.S. to avoid any contact with Hezbollah members even as the U.S. continues to provide assistance to and works with the Lebanese army.

Without exclusions or waivers to the designation, U.S. troops and diplomats could be barred from contact with Iraqi or Lebanese authorities who interact with Guard officials or surrogates.

The Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies have raised concerns about the

impact of the designation if the move does not allow contact with foreign officials who may have met with or communicated with Guard personnel. Those concerns have in part dissuaded previous administrations from taking the step, which has been considered for more than a decade.

It was not immediately clear whether the designation would include such carve-outs.

In addition to those complications, American commanders are concerned that the designation may prompt Iran to retaliate against U.S. forces in the region, and those commanders plan to warn U.S. troops

remaining in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere of that possibility, according to a third U.S. official. This official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Aside from Iraq, where some 5,200 American troops are stationed, and Syria, where some U.S. 2,000 troops remain, the U.S. 5th Fleet, which operates in the Persian Gulf from its base in Bahrain, and the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, are potentially at risk.

A similar warning is also expected from the State Department of possible Iranian retaliation against American interests, including embassies and consulates, and anti-American protests, the first two U.S. officials said. Similar alerts were issued at the start of the Iraq War in 2003 and more recently when the Trump administration announced it would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Despite the risks, Iran hardliners on Capitol Hill, such as Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and elsewhere have long advocated for the designation. They say it will send an important message to Iran as well as deal it a further blow after the Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed economic sanctions.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton have taken up the call and have in recent months spoken stridently about Iran and its "malign activities" in the region. □


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Continued from Front

The decision to name an immigration officer to the post reflects Trump's priority for a sprawling department founded to combat terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Though Trump aides were eyeing a staff shake-up at Homeland Security and had already withdrawn the nomination for another key immigration post, the development Sunday was unexpected.

Nielsen traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border on Friday with Trump to participate in a roundtable with border officers and local law enforcement. There she echoed Trump's comments on the situation at the border, though she ducked out of the room without explanation for some time while Trump spoke. As they toured a section of newly rebuilt barriers, Nielsen was at Trump's side, introducing him to local officials. She returned to Washington afterward on a Coast Guard Gulfstream, as Trump continued on a fundraising trip to California and Nevada. But privately, she had grown increasingly frustrated by what she saw as a lack of support from other departments and increased meddling by Trump aides, the people said. She went into a meeting with Trump at the White House in Sunday not knowing whether she'd be fired or would resign, and she ended up resigning, they said.

Her resignation later, obtained by The Associated Press, had not a whiff of controversy unlike others who have left from the administration.

"Despite our progress in reforming homeland security for a new age, I have determined that it is the right time for me to step aside," she wrote. "I hope that the next secretary will have the support of Congress and the courts in fixing the laws which have impeded our ability to fully secure America's borders and which have contributed to discord in our nation's discourse."

There have been persistent tensions between the White House and Nielsen almost from the moment she became secretary, after her predecessor, John Kelly, became the White House chief of staff in 2017. Nielsen was viewed as resistant to some of the harshest immigration measures supported by the president and his aides, particularly senior adviser Stephen Miller, both on matters around the border and others like protected status for some refugees. Once Kelly left the White House last year, Nielsen's days appeared to be numbered. She had expected to be pushed out last November, but her exit never materialized. And during the government shutdown over Trump's insistence for funding for a border wall, Nielsen's stock inside the White House even appeared to rise.

But in recent weeks, as a new wave of migration has taxed resources along the border and as Trump sought to regain control of the issue for his 2020 reelection campaign, tensions flared anew.

Arrests all along the southern border have skyrocketed in recent months.

Border agents are on track to make 100,000 arrests and denials of entry at the southern border this month, over half of which are families with children.

Nielsen advocated for strong cybersecurity defense and often said she believed the next major terror attack would occur online — not by planes or bombs. She was tasked with helping states secure elections following Russian interference during the 2016 election. But she was also instrumental in ending the policy. Under Nielsen, migrants seeking asylum are waiting in Mexico as their cases progress. □



In this Wednesday, March 6, 2019, file photo, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan speaks during a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee on oversight of Customs and Border Protection's response to the smuggling of persons at the southern border, in Washington.

Associated Press



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U.S. says reuniting separated families laborious process

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Trump administration wants up to two years to find potentially thousands of children who were separated from their families at the border before a judge halted the practice last year, a task that it says is more laborious than previous efforts because the children are no longer in government custody.

The Justice Department said in a court filing late Friday that it will take at least a year to review about 47,000 cases of unaccompanied children taken into government custody between July 1, 2017 and June 25, 2018 — the day before U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw halted the general practice of split-



In this June 17, 2018 file photo provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, people who've been taken into custody related to cases of illegal entry into the United States, sit in one of the cages at a facility in McAllen, Texas.

Associated Press

ting families. The administration would begin by sifting through names for traits most likely to signal separation — for example, children under 5.

The administration would provide information on separated families on a rolling basis to the American Civil Liberties Union, which sued to reunite families and criti-

cized the proposed timeline on Saturday.

"We strongly oppose a plan that could take up to two years to locate these families," said Lee Gelernt, the ACLU's lead attorney. "The government needs to make this a priority."

Sabraw ordered last year that more than 2,700 children in government care on June 26, 2018 be reunited with their families, which has largely been accomplished. Then, in January, the U.S. Health and Human Services Department's internal watchdog reported that thousands more children may have been separated since the summer of 2017. The department's inspector general said the precise number was unknown.

The judge ruled last month that he could hold the government accountable for families that were separated before his June order and asked the government submit a proposal for the next steps. A hearing is scheduled April 16.

Sheer volume makes the job different than identifying children who were in custody at the time of the judge's June order, Jonathan White, a commander of the U.S. Public Health Service and Health and Human Services' point person on family reunification, said in an affidavit.

White, whose work has drawn strong praise from the judge, would lead the effort to identify additional families on behalf of Health and Human Services with coun-


terparts at Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement. Dr. Barry Graubard, a statistics expert at the National Cancer Institute, developed a system to flag for early attention those most likely to have been separated.

The vast majority of separated children are released to relatives, but many are not parents. Of children released in the 2017 fiscal year, 49 percent went to parents, 41 percent to close relatives such as an aunt, uncle, grandparent or adult sibling and 10 percent to distant relatives, family friends and others.

The government's proposed model to flag still-separated children puts a higher priority on the roughly half who were not released to a parent. Other signs of likely separation include children under 5, younger children traveling without a sibling and those who were detained in the Border Patrol's El Paso, Texas, sector, where the administration ran a trial program that involved separating nearly 300 family members from July to November 2017.

Saturday marks the anniversary of the administration's "zero tolerance" policy to criminally prosecute every adult who enters the country illegally from Mexico. The administration retreated in June amid an international uproar by generally exempting adults who come with their children. The policy now applies only to single adults. □

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Florida abortion bill would require minors to obtain consent

By ELLIS RUA

MIAMI (AP) — Stephanie Loraine Piñero was 17 when she discovered she was pregnant for the second time.

She says her parents were livid about her first pregnancy a year earlier, though she never dared tell them she was raped. Her father took her to a clinic for an abortion. On the way home, she says, he threw birth control pills from the clinic out of the car window and ordered her to abstain.

A year later, the circumstances were different. She said she became pregnant after having sex with a boyfriend, and was afraid her parents would force her to continue an unwanted pregnancy if she told them. She sought but was denied emergency contraception from a pharmacy.

"I felt like I was being forced into parenthood," she said. She still had options for an abortion, but situations like hers might become more difficult under several bills before the Florida Legislature that could restrict access to the procedure, including a measure to require minors to get consent from a guardian before terminating a pregnancy. Sensing a shift in the U.S. Supreme Court, conservative lawmakers across the country have introduced hundreds of anti-abortion measures into state legislatures this year that could spark challenges that eventually may prompt the top court to revisit *Roe v. Wade*. More than half of U.S. states require consent from at least one parent or legal guardian for a minor to obtain an abortion, according to the Guttmacher Institute, which supports abortion rights.

Florida, a state that provided 1,472 abortions to minors in 2017, is one of the few states that require a parent or guardian to be informed 48 hours before the procedure in person, over the phone, or within



72 hours by certified mail. Many clinics allow parents to sign a notification waiver in order to bypass the mandatory waiting periods before a procedure is performed.

A bill proposed by Vero Beach Republican Rep. Erin Grall would flip Florida's status as a notification state to a consent state, where legal guardians have deciding power over an abortion. It would require physicians to obtain notarized written consent and government-issued proof of identification from a parent or legal guardian before any procedure.

Grall said in a House Committee meeting that she suspects many parents are left in the dark about their children's decision to have an abortion, and that they need to be involved.

"It is my belief that parental notification does not go far enough. It does not give parents the opportunity to weigh in the decision that child is making," Grall said. "I believe that parents have a fundamental right in the upbringing of their children," Grall said. "This really seeks to put the focus back on the family in such an important decision — a decision that cannot be undone."

Recently, a House Health Quality Subcommittee and Judiciary Committee voted

in favor of the measure. The bill is slated to come before a Senate Health Policy Committee on Monday.

Although a similar law was deemed unconstitutional by the Florida Supreme Court in 1989, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has also publicly voiced support for the bill.

DeSantis, when asked about the measure at an event last month in Miami, called the measure a matter of "common sense".

"If you're a minor and you have to get consent to do almost anything else, to me, that's very reasonable," DeSantis said.

More than 60% of minors in notification states discussed their decision to have an abortion with their parents, according to a Guttmacher Institute study. Dr. Sarah Stumbar, a physician who works with predominately low-income families in Miami, said she is concerned about the percentage of minors who don't notify their parents.

"That's due to their home situation," said Stumbar, who opposes the bill. "They're concerned about physical violence, emotional violence, sexual abuse . . . about getting kicked out the house and becoming homeless."

Florida law provides an alternative for minors who want to keep their parents

out of the loop in the form of a judicial bypass, a hearing in which a judge decides if it's in the best interest of the minor to not have their parents involved. The judge also determines if a minor is mature enough to make such a decision.

In 2018, Florida minors filed 193 petitions, 182 of which were granted, per state records. In 2017, judges approved nearly 92% of petitions.

Loraine Piñero learned about the judicial bypass when she was desperate, researching methods to induce a miscarriage. A lawyer took on her case and they won.

Without a ruling in her favor, her parents would have been notified ahead of the abortion, and under Grall's bill their consent would have been required. Now 27, Loraine Piñero works as a social worker and advocate for reproductive rights in Orlando. She said judicial bypass information is notoriously difficult to find, leaving many minors unaware of their options. "There's no consensus across the state on where to go and what to do," she said.

The Associated Press generally does not identify those who say they've been sexually assaulted, but Loraine Piñero tells her story publicly as an advocate. □

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Slaying puts focus on ride-hailing safety, fake drivers

CHICAGO (AP) — Whenever Rachel Orden calls for an Uber, the 20-year-old Michigan State University sophomore immediately walks to the back of the vehicle to check the license plate number, then opens the door and waits for the driver to say her name before getting in. Even then, she devises a backup plan in case she feels uncomfortable. "How could I get out? Could I unlock the door? Who do I have on speed dial? Could I jump out safely if I needed to? All that goes through my mind," said Orden, of Naples, Florida, who uses the ride-hailing service about once a week, usually when going out at night. She said the March 29 slaying of University of South Carolina student Samantha Josephson, who mistakenly got into a vehicle she thought was her Uber ride, has made her even more cautious.

It also has prompted law enforcement agencies and ride-hailing companies to intensify efforts to warn passengers against getting in without checking to ensure both the vehicle and driver are legitimate. Although no official tallies exist, there have been several high-profile cases involving would-be robbers and assailants posing as ride-hailing drivers — often at bars. Police in South Carolina have not said if that was what the driver did in Josephson's case. "You do have individuals who are predatory and roving around looking for potential victims," said Chicago Police Department spokesman Anthony Guglielmi, adding that fraudulent drivers are drawn to bars because people might be drunk and not paying attention.



In this Jan. 12, 2016, file photo, a ride share car displays Lyft and Uber stickers on its front windshield in downtown Los Angeles.

A Chicago-area man was charged with raping four women he picked up at bars after posing as an Uber driver in 2017. He picked up a fifth woman in a taxi, authorities said. Musaab Afundi has pleaded not guilty to sexual assault and his case is ongoing, CBS2 Chicago reported. In South Carolina, Josephson, 21, had ordered an Uber around 1:30 a.m. after reportedly becoming separated from friends following an evening out at Columbia bars. She mistakenly got into a car driven by 24-year-old Nathaniel David Rowland, according to authorities, who allege he

used the childproof locks in his car to imprison Josephson before killing her and dumping her body about 65 miles (105 kilometers) from Columbia. Her funeral was held Saturday in New Jersey, where she grew up. Rowland is charged with kidnapping and murder. Then on Wednesday, a 34-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of raping a woman who got into his car after leaving a Seattle bar on Dec. 16. The King County Sheriff's Office said the man led her to believe he was her driver before pulling the car over and raping her. A judge found probable cause to hold

the man on investigation of third-degree rape. And a man from Stamford, Connecticut, was charged last month with raping and kidnapping two women whom he'd picked up at bars in December, the Greenwich Time reported. "There is no more dangerous place to be than in a locked car traveling with a stranger," said Bryant Greening, a Chicago attorney who specializes in representing ride-hailing drivers and passengers. "You have to be aware of your surroundings and think how you would react if the situation turns sour ... you have to listen to your instincts."

It's not just women who are at risk from fake ride-hailing drivers, he said. Men also have been robbed after getting into the wrong car. "There is no discrimination by predators," he said. Greening urged Uber and Lyft to do more to educate customers and to come up with technological solutions. Also, in the wake of Josephson's death, a bill has been introduced in the South Carolina legislature to require Uber and Lyft drivers to have illuminated signs. Uber said in a written statement that in coming weeks it will launch a social media campaign, buy ads in college newspapers and begin sending push notifications during pickup to remind passengers about safety steps. It also said it has worked since 2017 with law enforcement and colleges to "educate the public about how to avoid fake rideshare drivers," including by checking a driver's photo and vehicle description against what was sent when a trip is requested. Lyft said it also provides photos of the driver and information about the vehicle, and some Lyft vehicles have a display on dashboards that changes color to match the passengers' app to help them identify their ride. "We ... are always exploring new, innovative ways to improve the experience for all users, and most importantly, to keep our community safe," the company said.

Orden, the Michigan State University student, said the recent assaults have made her more nervous even though she's already cautious. "But I feel like in a way that's a good thing," she said. "Now I will take even more precautions." □

Associated Press

2 South Carolina men charged with killing, burying women

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP) — Two South Carolina men have been charged with murder after sheriff's deputies found two bodies buried at a house just outside Spartanburg, authorities said. The arrests came after one of the suspects shot himself in the head in front of deputies, survived, and subsequently told deputies he'd

witnessed the other man kill his girlfriend. Arrested Saturday were 39-year-old Jonathan Galligan and 41-year-old Christian Daniel Hurlburt, local news outlets report. Deputies say that on Friday, they found buried the bodies of 27-year-old Christin Renee Bunner of Spartanburg and 40-year-old Melissa Fairlee Rhymer of Mount-

ville. Galligan is charged with Bunner's death, while Hurlburt is charged with killing Rhymer. Both men are jailed without bail following a Saturday hearing. It's unclear if they have lawyers who could comment for them. Officers were called to a local towing service Wednesday concerning a disturbance. Hurlburt, who lives on the property,

wouldn't follow deputies' commands, took out a gun and shot himself in the head. Wounded, he called deputies to his hospital bed Thursday and told them about Bunner's death, saying he helped bury the woman in the yard at Galligan's house. Hurlburt later confessed that he'd killed a second woman and buried her at the house, where

Galligan lived at one time. Deputies couldn't find the bodies Thursday, but returned with cadaver dogs Friday. Authorities said the remains were found in graves that began about 18 inches (46 centimeters) below the ground. "The dogs indicated in two areas," said Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger. □



The 150-year-old heart of St. John Vianney is displayed at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Saturday, April 6, 2019. The 150-year-old heart of St. John Vianney is displayed at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Saturday, April 6, 2019.

Associated Press

French priest's 150-year-old heart being venerated in NYC

By VERENA DOBNIK

NEW YORK (AP) — The 150-year-old heart of a French priest is on a U.S. tour — a Roman Catholic relic with New York City as its latest stop.

It was on display Saturday at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, where both the faithful and the curious lined up to see the human organ behind glass. The Knights of Columbus fraternity is sponsoring the pilgrimage of this heart, which has been to 28 states so far, with more coming up.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, is to lead a Sunday procession venerating the heart of Saint John Vianney, who was a priest in the

southern French town of Ars, outside Lyon. He lived during the French Revolution, helping to hide priests on the run.

The tradition of preserving the body parts of saintly Catholics goes back to the Middle Ages in Italy. When St. Catherine of Siena died in Rome, her hometown of Siena wanted her remains. But they didn't want to get caught making off with the whole body, and decided to take just her head.

Vianney is considered the patron saint of parish priests, famed for hearing confessions for endless hours with an ear so understanding that he drew Catholics from all around Europe. □



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UK holds out hope for Brexit compromise by Friday deadline

By SYLVIA HUI

LONDON (AP) — Cross-party talks to jumpstart plans for Brexit are expected to resume before the U.K.'s Friday deadline for leaving the European Union, and the opposition Labour Party is hopeful the country's political impasse can be resolved, a party negotiator said Sunday.

British Prime Minister Theresa May reluctantly reached out to Labour lawmakers Tuesday after Parliament voted down her divorce deal with the EU for the third time. The move infuriated pro-Brexit lawmakers in her Conservative Party, and three days of bargaining with the opposition didn't yield a compromise agreement.

While Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn faulted the government, saying it showed no willingness to budge from



In this March 29, 2019, file photo, Pro-Brexit leave the European Union supporters wave flags in Parliament Square at the end of the final leg of the "March to Leave" in London.

Associated Press

its previous Brexit positions, Labour business minister

Rebecca Long-Bailey held out hope and said further

talks are expected. The discussions' "overall

mood is quite a positive and hopeful one" despite the government's "disappointing" failure to shift its stance on several issues, she said. "The sad thing is at the moment, we haven't seen overall any real changes to the deal, but we are hopeful that will change in coming days, and we are willing to continue the talks as we know the government are," Long-Bailey told the BBC. "We are currently waiting for the government to come back to us now to state whether they are prepared to move on any of their red lines," she added. May acknowledged Saturday that the government had failed to get the withdrawal deal she struck with the EU through Parliament despite her best efforts and "there is no sign it can be passed in the near future." □

Oman FM: Palestinians must reassure Israel it's not in peril



King Abdullah II of Jordan addresses the audience at the World Economic Forum at Dead Sea, Jordan on Saturday, April 6, 2019.

Associated Press

By OMAR AKOUR

Associated Press

DEAD SEA, Jordan (AP) — Oman's foreign minister urged Palestinians on Saturday to reassure Israel that

it is not under threat in the Middle East, drawing a rare public rebuke from his Jordanian counterpart.

Oman's Yusuf bin Alawi and Jordan's Ayman Sa-

fadi shared the stage at a regional gathering of the World Economic Forum, held on Jordan's shores of the Dead Sea.

Bin Alawi spoke at a time of warming ties between Israel and several Gulf Arab states, as part of an unofficial alliance against Iranian influence in the region.

The Omani minister said that Palestinians "should help Israel to get away from" what he said was its mistaken sense of being threatened.

Safadi responded sharply, to applause from the audience.

"I beg to differ on a number of issues," said Safadi. He noted that in 2002, as part

of the Arab Peace Initiative, scores of Arab and Muslim countries offered Israel recognition in exchange for a withdrawal from occupied lands sought for a Palestinian state.

Safadi said the problem is whether Israeli occupation "is going to end."

Lebanon's defense minister and Bahrain's foreign minister were also present on stage during the exchange.

The recent rapprochement between Israel and several Gulf states has been fueled by deepening rivalries between regional camps, led by Saudi Arabia and Iran, respectively. The Trump administration's hard anti-

Iran line has contributed to growing regional tensions. In October, Israeli Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a surprise visit to Oman and Israeli officials visited the United Arab Emirates in recent months. Meanwhile, the Palestinians feel increasingly sidelined, fearing Israel, Gulf states and the U.S. plan to strike a deal behind their backs about the future of war-won lands they seek for a future state.

Jordan, which has a peace treaty with Israel, considers itself a strong advocate for Palestinian political demands. A majority of the kingdom's citizens are of Palestinian origin. □



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Australian election on May 18 appears likely

By ROD McGUIRK
Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— May 18 appears the most likely date for Australia's next election at which the conservative government faces an uphill battle to win a third three-year term.

Government sources have told media that Prime Minister Scott Morrison will not call an election on Sunday, which had been widely anticipated.

Sunday was the most likely choice if Morrison were to opt for the first of three dates available to him — May 11, May 18 and May 25. While many commentators had previously thought May 11 the most likely election date, May 18 would give the ruling coalition another week to use government money to advertise its policies and achievements.

Once an election is called, the coalition becomes a caretaker government and

would need the approval of the center-left Labor Party opposition if taxpayers were to continue funding of what are described as government public information campaigns.

Morrison on Sunday defended his government's spending and accused Labor of using government coffers to pay for its own advertising while it was a caretaker administration ahead of its defeat in the 2013 election.

He gave no clue on Sunday to the election date.

"The election will be called in April and the election will be held in May," Morrison told reporters in his hometown Sydney.

"We're not doing this with any haste and we're not doing it with any delay," he added.

The government has been trailing Labor in opinion polls for most of the last three years since it scraped back into power with a single-seat majority at an

In this Feb. 13, 2019, file photo, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison addresses the media at Parliament House in Canberra. Associated Press

election that cost it 14 seats. The ruling coalition has since lost another two seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives and now has only 74 lawmakers in the chamber where parties form government. Labor has 69 lawmakers and the remainder are minor parties or independent

legislators.

Prime ministers traditionally call elections on a Sunday. The campaigns last at least 33 days and officially start a few days after the date is announced.

Monday is the last day that Morrison can call a May 11 election. But doing that would mean senators who

had flown to the Australian capital Canberra for committee hearings starting Monday would be sent home that day.

The Australian Electoral Commission website says May 18 is the last possible date for the election because counting votes can take six weeks and must be finalized by June 30. The government would have to invest in more commission resources to cope with a tighter deadline created by a May 25 election.

But Morrison said on Sunday that May 25 remained an option.

Prime ministers usually keep their choices of election dates a tightly guarded secret in an effort to put the opposition at a tactical disadvantage. Opposition leader Bill Shorten told reporters Morrison was delaying the election because "this government wants to spend tens of millions of dollars on TV advertising to pump up their own tires." □

Turkish ruling party seeks total recount of Istanbul votes

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)

— Turkey's ruling party said Sunday it will appeal for a full recount of all votes cast in Istanbul's mayoral election, which the opposition narrowly won in a major setback for President Recep Erdogan.

The opposition's mayoral candidate urged the ruling party to accept defeat.

In the March 31 local elections, the opposition not only prevailed in a tight

race in Istanbul, a city of 15 million residents that is Turkey's financial and cultural center, but took control of Ankara, the capital. Erdogan's party, which had held both cities for decades, contested the results, claiming the elections were "tainted."

The ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, won the right for a recount of votes that were previously deemed invalid.

But on Sunday, Ali Ihsan

Yavuz, a deputy chairman, said the party would appeal to the country's top election authority for a total recount of votes in 38 districts in Istanbul, not just of ballots that were canceled.

The party made the move after the opposition candidate's lead narrowed to 16,380 votes after some 80% of the invalidated ballots were reassessed in the partial recount.

The opposition Republican

People's Party maintains that it looks increasingly unlikely that the invalidated ballots will swing the result in Istanbul in favor of the ruling party.

Ekrem Imamoglu, the opposition party candidate, urged the AKP to concede. "I understand that it is not easy to lose (Istanbul) after ruling it for 25 years, but this is what democracy is about," Imamoglu said. "It's not the end of the world." imamoglu also asked the

Supreme Electoral Board to assume its "historic duty" and avoid decisions that would lead to suspicions of "double standards" in favor of Erdogan's party.

Yavuz insisted Sunday that the elections were marred by "organized irregularities." The electoral authority is expected to rule on the request for a full recount in the coming days before confirming the final results of the elections at the end of the week. □

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Fighting in northwestern Syria strains truce, kills 13

By SARAH EL DEEB

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government forces and insurgents exchanged a barrage of rockets on Sunday in the country's northwest that killed at least 13 people and hit a government-run hospital, activists and government media reported.

The violence strained a fragile months-old truce negotiated between Russia and Turkey that averted a government offensive on Idlib and surrounding areas, the last major rebel stronghold in the country. The region is home to some 3 million people, including many displaced from other battles in the civil war. The head of the local hospital in government-held Massaf said insurgent shell-



This photo provided by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows a civil defense worker helps a child after shelling at a street in Nairab town, in the eastern province of Idlib, Syria, Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Associated Press

ing killed a rescue worker and four other people. Maher Younis told the state-run Ikhbariya TV that five children who were arriving

at the hospital and two dentists were wounded. One of the wounded told Ikhbariya from her hospital bed that the missile landed

when she and her mother were arriving to do some medical tests.

"We only felt a big bang. I was wounded in my hand and my mom in her leg," she said, without giving her name.

Hospitals and civilian infrastructure have frequently come under fire over the course of the eight-year civil war, and rights groups say government forces have targeted medical facilities on several occasions. The government denies targeting such facilities and says the rebels use them for military purposes. The rebels do not have precision missiles, and mainly rely on homemade or outdated arms.

The U.N. says close to half of all hospitals and primary

health care facilities in Syria are either partially functional or not functional due to damage inflicted by the war in the last eight years.

The insurgent fire came amid heightened tensions following days of government fire on villages and towns on the edge of the enclave.

Opposition-allied first responders known as the White Helmets said government shelling killed at least eight people, including one child, in Saraqeb and Nairab towns in eastern Idlib. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights put the death toll at nine. The activist-run Shaam news agency said the shelling in Saraqeb hit civilians who were visiting a local government office. □



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Activists: 5 killed in protests against Sudan's president



Sudanese protesters gather near the military headquarters, Sunday, April 7, 2019, in the capital Khartoum, Sudan.

Associated Press

By SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Security forces killed at least five protesters in fresh anti-government marches on Saturday in Sudan, in what organizers said was among the largest turnouts in three

months.

The demonstrations began in December over price hikes and food shortages, and quickly escalated into calls for President Omar al-Bashir's resignation, posing one of the biggest challenges yet to his nearly 30-

year rule.

Security forces have responded to the protest movement with a fierce crackdown, killing at least 60 people according to Physicians for Human Rights, a New York-based rights group. The latest deaths raised the tally to at least 65 since protests began. The government has said that 32 people have been killed, but hasn't updated its tally in weeks.

The rallies are being led by the Sudanese Professionals Association, an umbrella group of independent professional unions.

Sarah Abdel-Jaleel, a spokeswoman for the SPA, told The Associated Press that four people were killed in the capital city of Khartoum and another protester was killed in the neighboring city of Omdurman. □



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25 years after genocide, Rwanda has a new light, says leader

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Twenty-five years after the start of its genocide, in which some 800,000 people were killed, Rwanda is rebuilding with hope and shines with a new light, said President Paul Kagame. Speaking at commemoration services Sunday, Kagame said that Rwandans would never turn against each other again. "Our bodies and minds bear amputations and scars, but none of us is alone," said Kagame at the ceremony attended by several heads of state. "We Rwandans have granted ourselves a new beginning. We exist in a state of permanent commemoration, every day, in all that we do ... Today, light radiates from this place." Earlier in the day, Kagame and his wife laid wreaths and lit a flame at the mass burial ground of 250,000 victims at the Kigali Genocide Memorial Center in the capital, Kigali. Those attending the ceremonies included the leaders of Chad, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Niger, Belgium, Canada, Ethiopia, as well as the African Union



Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, center-left, First Lady Jeannette Kagame, center, and son Ivan Cyomoro Kagame, right, prepare to lay a wreath at the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Kigali, Rwanda Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Associated Press

and the European Union. "I am moved beyond words at this memorial to tragedy," said Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission. "Time can never erase the darkest hours in our history. It is our duty to remember." Songs, poems and plays about the rebirth of Rwanda

after the genocide the new nation were later performed at the Kigali convention center. Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said "the duty of remembrance must be a sacred requirement." Belgian peacekeepers were among those killed in Rwanda during the geno-

cide. Ethiopian Prime Minister expressed solidarity with Rwandans and said under Kagame's leadership, seeds of unity and never again had been sowed. There will be a procession through the capital to Kigali's National Stadium where are many as 30,000 are ex-

pected to participate in an evening candlelight ceremony.

"Twenty-five years ago, Rwanda fell into a deep ditch due to bad leadership, today, we are a country of hope and a nation elevated," Agnes Mutamba, 25, a teacher who was born during the genocide told The Associated Press in Kigali.

"Today, the government has united all Rwandans as one people with the same culture and history and is speeding up economic transformation," said Oliver Nduhungihere, Rwanda's state foreign affairs minister.

The mass killing of Rwanda's Tutsi minority was ignited on April 6, 1994, when a plane carrying President Juvénal Habyarimana was shot down and crashed in Kigali, killing the leader who, like the majority of Rwandans, was an ethnic Hutu. The Tutsi minority was blamed for downing the plane and the bands of Hutu extremists began slaughtering the Tutsi, with support from the army, police, and militias. □

Maldives leader's party declares sweeping election victory

MALE, Maldives (AP) — Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's party declared a sweeping parliamentary election victory Sunday that could give him a free hand in efforts to restore political freedoms and tackle corruption. Local media reports said Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party was leading in 60 of the 87 seats in parliament following Saturday's vote. Official results were expected late Sunday, but there was no announcement yet.

It could be the first time a single party wins a majority in parliament since the Indian Ocean archipelago nation became a multiparty democracy in 2008 after decades of autocratic rule. Afshan Latheef, the campaign spokeswoman for Solih's party, told The Associated Press that it was a "resounding victory" that "undoubtedly reflected the people's desire for reform and implementation of policies outlined in the president and government's manifesto."

As his party began celebrating after the vote counting started Saturday night, Solih said the people should not forget "the immense challenges that lie ahead of us." "The work to strengthen our democratic institutions, to deliver basic services for citizens, to our promise of bringing corruption, past and present, to book and ending impunity starts now," he said in a statement Sunday. "I look forward to working with all of you to realize our promises to the people." □



Madivian women cast their votes in Male, Maldives, Saturday, April 6, 2019.

Associated Press

In possible first, Cuba allows march by animal activists

By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — More than 400 animal-lovers peacefully marched more than a mile through Havana on Sunday, shouting slogans and waving signs calling for an end to animal cruelty in Cuba.

Short, seemingly simple, the march wrote a small but significant line in the history of modern Cuba. The socialist government had explicitly permitted a public march unassociated with any part of the all-encompassing Communist state, a move that participants and historians call highly unusual and perhaps unprecedented since the first years of the revolution.

"I think it's very intelligent that they approved the demonstration, or, rather, march," said singer Silvio Rodriguez, an establishment figure who has criticized official cultural rigidity and who participated in the event. "It makes us feel optimistic. Now we have to see if the same thing will happen with other causes." There is no indication Cuba is moving toward unfettered freedom of assembly: The state still clamps down on unapproved political speech with swift and massive police mobilizations, waves of arrests and temporary detentions. So a march by independent civil society groups seeking government action was a remarkable sight in a country where, for nearly 60 years, virtually every aspect of life was part of a single chain of command ending in a supreme leader named Castro.

"It's unprecedented," said Alberto Gonzalez, an organizer of the march and publisher of *The Ark*, an online Cuban animal-lovers magazine. "This is going to mark a before and an after."

Since shortly after its foundation, the Cuban Communist government has only permitted the existence of what it calls "legitimate civil society" — groups overseen, sponsored and managed by the state and Communist



Pet owners march against animal cruelty in Havana, Cuba, Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Associated Press

Party. Those groups are fixtures in the mass marches and gatherings organized by the state on public holidays. On the other end of the spectrum are dissident groups, often with close ties to anti-Castro forces in Miami who want to overthrow the socialist government and reinstall a capitalist system with close ties to Washington. Their attempts at street protests and other forms of organizing are almost instantly quashed by state security.

The animal-rights march was monitored by what appeared to at least a couple of dozen plain-clothes state security agents, who watched participants closely but did not interfere. Gonzalez said security officials had asked him to steer the march from the main thoroughfare where it had been authorized to a smaller side street in order to avoid traffic.

It was covered by virtually all major international media based in Havana, but did not appear to be covered by most state-run media, a fact that Rodriguez, the legendary singer, called a lost opportunity.

"It's a shame that after the march was approved, the national press hasn't covered it," he said. "It's sad." In the year since Raul Castro handed the presidency to longtime party technocrat Miguel Diaz-Canel in April 2018, churches, civil society groups and loose associations of like-minded acquaintances have been using the growing availability of internet in Cuba to organize for various causes, and the state has been ceding them a small degree of freedom to operate.

Artists pushed back successfully against a new law regulating artistic expression. Evangelical churches prodded the government to rescind a proposal to legalize gay marriage. Thousands organized online to get private aid to victims of a tornado in Havana in January. Biologist Ariel Ruiz Urquiola was freed from prison after an online campaign by a wide range of Cubans against his one-year sentence for "disrespecting a forest ranger" during a broader campaign against illegal logging and other environ-

mental violations in western Cuba.

"It's part of a trend toward recognizing civil society, in a tacit manner, sometimes a timid one, but one that's growing, little by little," said Yassel Padron Kunakbaeva, a blogger and intellectual who describes him as a Marxist revolutionary.

A 10-year-old private group known as Forest Guardians regularly organizes tree plantings and cleanups of rivers that cross the city of Havana, said organizer Isbel Diaz, a biologist. Last year, the group used \$11,000 in small donations to buy a headquarters where it holds workshops and study groups with what it calls a leftist, anti-capitalist orientation.

Diaz said that the group's first cleanup of the Malecon promenade in 2010 had 14 members picking up trash as several dozen state security agents filmed, took photos and called out threats and insults.

"Activism in Cuba has taken place despite the state," Diaz said. "In my opinion, it's not because the state has felt the need to open up, but because it's had no oth-

er option than to accept reality and people with a lot of courage have defied the limits and pushed the boundaries back a little."

In contrast, when self-employed taxi drivers went on an informal strike to protest new regulations, they were met with a flood of inspections that forced many to stop working.

Animal-rights activism has been a fertile field for organizing in Cuba, where there are no laws against animal abuse and virtually every neighborhood has a resident or two who dedicate hours to feeding, treating and sterilizing street dogs and cats, sometimes with the help of foreigners donating supplies and funds.

The country has one officially recognized animal-rescue group, Aniplant, and perhaps a dozen other small, non-state organizations in Havana and other major cities. In recent years the groups have collected thousands of signatures asking for an animal-protection law, with no success to date.

"What I believe is that, if I live in this country I should try to fight for what I want in this country, and what I want is to help Cuban animals," said Grettel Montes de Oca Valdes, a professional dancer and founder of the group Cubans in Defense of Animals, whose members marched on Sunday. "I don't think that we should stop speaking out because if we stop speaking out nothing happens. That method is useless."

With dozens of participants walking dogs on leashes and even in baby strollers, the march ended at the grave of Jeannette Ryder, an American who fought for animal rights in Cuba at the start of 20th century. Aniplant has typically organized what it calls pilgrimages to the grave every April. In a sign of remaining tensions between the official and unofficial in Cuba, many volunteers from the government-backed animal group boycotted Sunday's march and holding their own event next week. □

LOCAL

Aruba to Me

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Asi Es Mi Peru restaurant launches Chef Table 5 Course Menu: "It feels like having dinner at home in Peru"



EAGLE BEACH - Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas is the proud owner of a restaurant that without doubt serves the purest Peruvian specialties in Aruba: Asi Es Mi Peru at Paradise Beach Villas. She herself welcomes you in 'her home' as that is how the restaurant is described by Peruvian foodies: Food like home, for sure the best compliment a restaurant can get. "Everything here is 100 % Peruvian, we are authentic and ethnic." Peru by the way is considered to be the single most important cuisine in Latin America with a repertoire of dishes that might even beat France. Many big-name chefs travel to the country to get inspired.

How It All Started

"Many years ago during a Christmas gathering with family my mom told me why I did not open a Peruvian restaurant in Aruba. She said: who does not love Peruvian food?" That was the trigger for the start because Roxanne loves cooking, it is in her genes. Her mom and grandmother were great cooks. "My base principle was to do everything original and authentic. When guests come to this restaurant I want to serve them the food as if you were dining the best dishes in a house in Peru. The taste is equal, nothing is fused or changed. Many Peruvians that come here say: I feel like I am having dinner at home. It is very difficult to please Peruvians as naturally they know best what is authentic." To find her Chef and Sous Chef she went to Peru where she interviewed 190 applicants. "We had more than 400 people that applied, after a screening that my brother and I did, we were left with 190 and out of them 10 cooked for me. I gave them a basket with ingredients and a certain plate they had to cook. Based on that I chose the Chef and Sous Chef."



Chef Table 5 Course Menu

Peruvian food is remarkable for the diversity of its ingredients. It might be best known for its ceviche, the marinated seafood dish, but bestsellers are also Lomo Saltado (stir fry strips sirloin), seafood rice and Pescado a lo Macho (fish of the day). Roxanne explains that recently the Chef launched a 5-course Chef Table Menu. "Now that we have standardized our typical Peruvian cuisine, we are ready to take it to the next level. Our Chef is very knowledgeable and we bring higher cuisine to the table." Of the 5 courses the first is the Tiradito Tres Regiones, and the 2nd the Majao de Yuca con Pargo Escabechado paired with a wonderful Santiago Ruiz Albarino; The 3rd plate is a Cremosa de Quinoa con Aji Relleno paired with a Hahn Pinot Noir, the 4th the Lomo con Salsa de Hongos Andinos paired with a Merlot Santa Margarita, and the 5th a Crocante de Maracuya. Try this wonderful culinary experience!

Roxanne explains that the Peruvian food is influenced by different cultures. "A lot of people came from China to work in the sugar plantations, Japanese came to work in the rice fields and African immigrants brought their influences as well... that's why you see a fusion in the dishes. The typical food and plates from Peru mixed with these influences make up for an excellent cuisine. Our sushi for example is totally different than the standard sushi and we have so many pastas that are outside of Italian pastas. The variety of corn, more than 500 variety of potatoes... I can go on and on." I guess you will need to try it for yourself as Roxanne's place is unique.

Asi Es Mi Peru is open every day from 12 noon - 10:30 pm. They are closed on Monday evening. Have a peak on their website <https://www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com/> or Facebook asi es mi peru. □



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'I am LOVE and Love just IS' is a quote Gadi uses pointing down her emphasis on Consciousness, Health and Healing. She has a Bachelor Degree as a Social Worker and a Master Degree as a Spiritual Psychologist ... and has worked with pleasure for many years and has been of service at the Guardian-



ship Council, Colegio Arubano and Fundacion pa Maneho di Adiccion di Aruba (FMAA).

When life sometimes gets in your way because of mental pressure or blocks that lead to your childhood, Gadi will guide you back to the essence and help you to take action in order to improve your life. Many times we are stuck in patterns that were created during our childhood and we repeat the same. She supports you in finding your own answers and wisdom on essential questions of life, such as Who am I? What is my life goal? How can I make a valuable contribution to society and the world? The irony is when people apply and apply the principles and practices of spiritual psychology in their daily lives, their ailments and symptoms often tend to disappear. "Her effective approach is also because of her understanding of personal growth, counseling and support is all about that", says a testimonial.

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For today's newspaper we received two great pictures from

Sandy Bonnell from Elmira, New York. She wrote:

"Aruba is to me....a joyful journey with displays of happy hints what heaven must be like! 12 years coming to this heavenly island!"



Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



Where to meet real fisherman!!



Last week a friend of mine that has been coming to Aruba for many years asked me where he can talk to real Aruban fishermen and I send him to this place. On the weekends you find them playing dominos and having good times as comrades and during the week they are all on the sea catching our fresh fishes. The huts are very unique painted with bright colors. To visit this place you must take the road along the coast on your way to San Nicolas and it will be your first spot on your right hand. It's not visible from the road but just look for the stairs and just go down and you will experience a total different world here in Aruba.

Mangel Halto will always be exotic



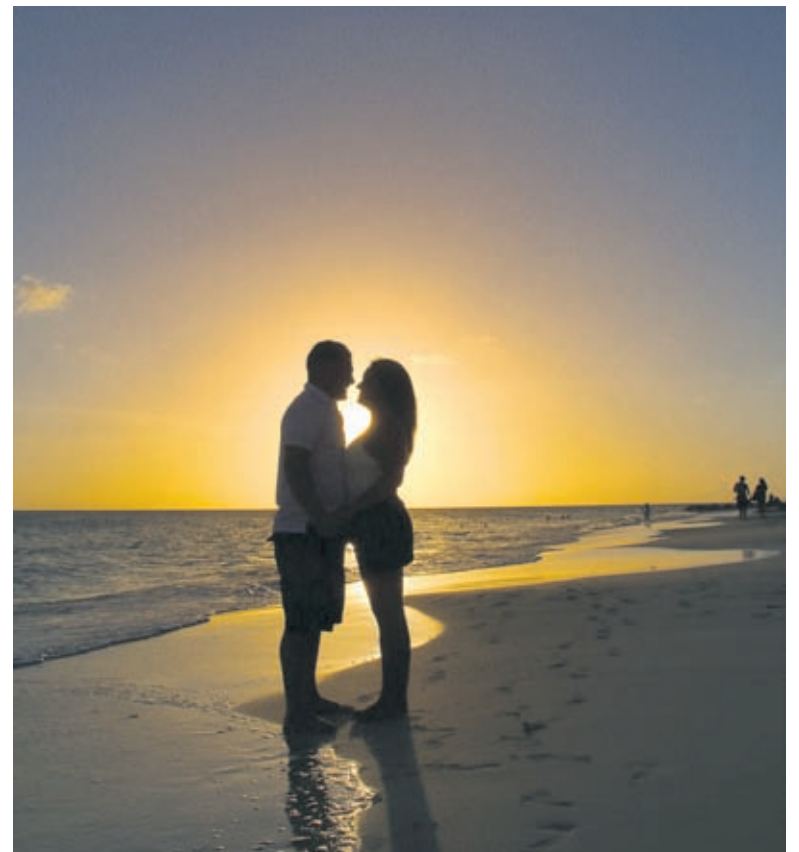
Mangel Halto Beach is not crowded and unique by its various sea ambiance you can find here. You will have white sandy beach, rocks as coastline, lots of mangroves and the underwater for snorkeling is also unique. A very nice spot to spend a day at the beach and have shades under the mangroves. Very close to supermarkets where you can buy snacks and drinks for the day. If you continue on the same road along the coastline to San Nicolas you will find Zeerover where you can eat fresh fish and French fries! So please invite me when you go!

Snorkeling at Arashi Beach



Arashi is one of the best beaches on the island and morning photo shoots are spectacular at this romantic beach. It's also great to do snorkeling here both on the north and south of Arashi Beach. This morning picture I took from the south section of Arashi Beach and to take it you must have a Gopro with the dome attached. With mask and fins you will see beautiful underwater scenes and sure you will see the Sergeant major fish in its bright colors. I suggest you do a snorkeling at this beach!

The classic Sunset Photo



There are some cliché shots that will never go out of style and it's the silhouette photo with the sun at the beach. This is from a photo shoot I did last Friday and I will teach you how to take this professional look photo. First go for composition with the sun at the best spot, just behind the couple in the composition. The trick is to click on your cell phone on the brightest spot in the composition, wait of 2 seconds and then press to take the photo and you will be amazed with beautiful photos with a professional look.

SPORTS



Madison Keys holds the championship trophy after defeating Caroline Wozniacki, from Denmark, to win their finals match at the Volvo Car Open tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Associated Press

American Keys overpowers Wozniacki to win Volvo Car Open

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Madison Keys got much more than she expected at the Volvo Car Open, leaving with her first championship in two years and a successful reunion with coach Juan Toderó.

Keys was unsure how she would handle the season's first clay-court event — clay is not among her favorite surfaces — or if she'd mesh again with Toderó, who had worked with her in 2013 and 2014 and was back in her corner this week after five years apart. Any concerns were allayed when the 24-year-old American overpowered the normally steady Caroline Wozniacki 7-6 (5), 6-3 on Sunday.

"It was a really good first week," Keys said with a smile. "I hope we keep this up." If they can, who knows what Keys might accomplish?

Continued on Page 23

BY GEORGE!



Astros walk off to complete series sweep vs. A's

Houston Astros' George Springer reacts after scoring the tying run on Alex Bregman's sacrifice during the eighth inning of the team's baseball game against the Oakland Athletics, Sunday, April 7, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press
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Conners wins Valero days after qualifying, will play Masters

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — His first PGA Tour victory in the bag and his ticket punched for next week's Masters, Corey Conners' primary concern was a big change to his work weeks going forward.

"No more Monday qualifying," Conners said. "That's the best deal from this. Amazing. It's a dream come true. I won't be as stressful on Mondays."

Conners won the Valero Texas Open on Sunday less than a week after qualifying, earning him the final available slot in the Masters. Conners only entered the tournament field Monday, and he's the first golfer to win on the PGA Tour after qualifying on a Monday in nine years.

He made three birdies in the final five holes, shooting a 6-under 66. He was 20-under for the tournament, winning by two shots over Charley Hoffman.

Next stop for Conners: Augusta, Georgia.

"My wife got an email this morning letting her know we could check in for our flight back home," Conners said. "I told her, 'Aw, don't check in yet. Maybe we can make other plans.' Big change of plans. It was going to be an off week. I'm glad it won't be."

Hoffman, the 2016 Texas Open winner, shot 67 for 18-under on the week.

Ryan Moore closed with an 8-under 64, a shot off the course record, and was third at 17-under.

Si Woo Kim, The Players Championship winner in 2017, led the opening three rounds but dropped to a tie

for fourth with Brian Stuard (15-under) after an even-par 72.

Conners, the 2014 U.S. Amateur runner-up, will play in his second Masters. Two of the top three finishers last year at Augusta missed the top 10 this week. Rickie Fowler was tied for 17th while 10 strokes back at 10-under with a final-round 69, and Jordan Spieth (72) was 7-under.

"I definitely feel like I got good work done heading into next week," Fowler said. "I'm feeling good."

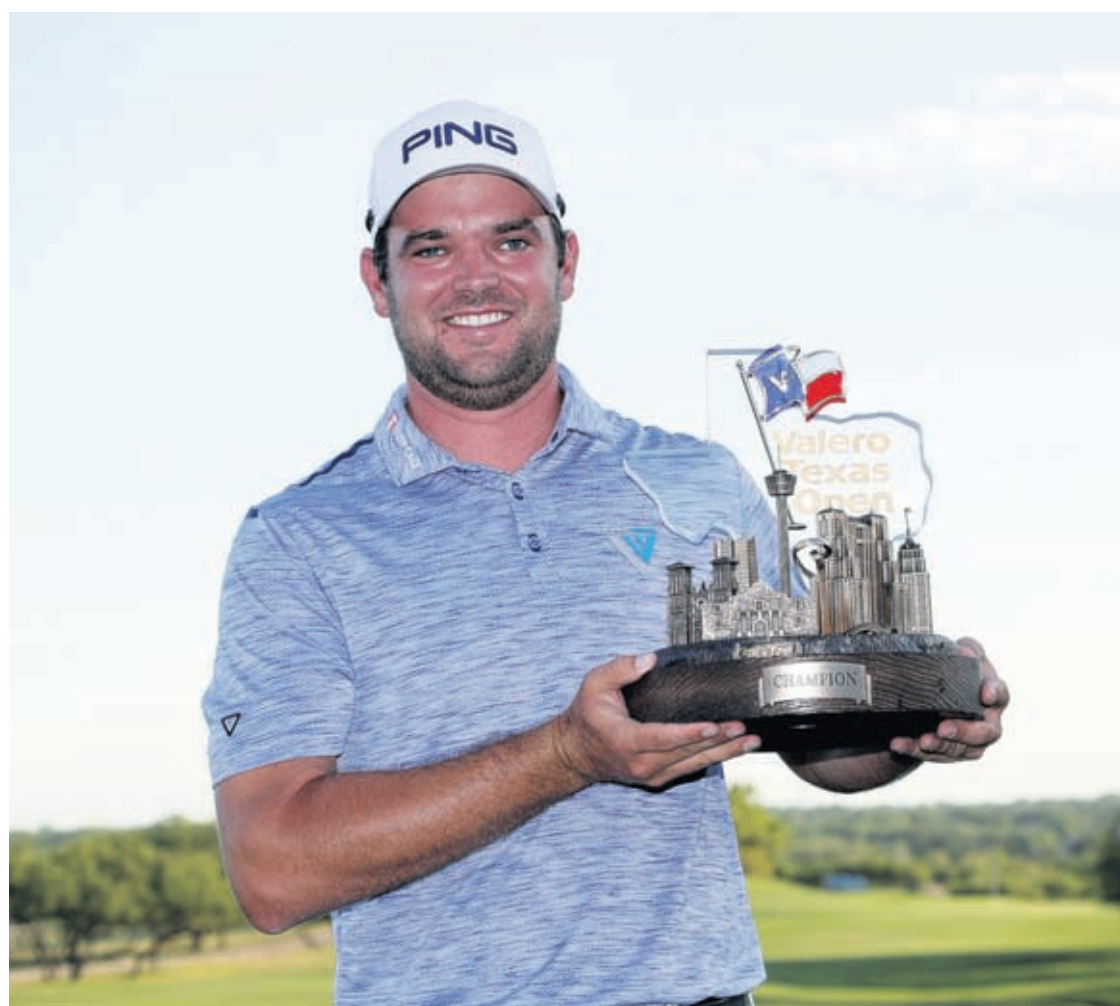
Stuard finished with 66 to get to 15-under. Kevin Streelman closed with an 8-under 64 and was 14-under. He missed tying the course record when, after four-straight birdies, he hit his approach from the 18th fairway into the gallery and bogeyed.

It was a wild round for Conners, a Canadian who had not won on any of the PGA Tour's affiliated circuits — he had finishes of second and third earlier this season. He had 10 birdies and four pars that sandwiched four consecutive bogeys on the front nine.

"After the middle of the front nine, I thought, 'All right, this is going to be my tournament to win,'" Hoffman said. "He showed up and balled up. My hat's off to him."

Conners had a one-stroke lead when he rammed in a 34-foot birdie putt at No. 12, and stayed a stroke up with a tap-in birdie at the 14th.

Moore joined Conners at the top of the leaderboard with an 8-foot putt at No. 16



Corey Conners poses with the trophy after winning the Valero Texas Open golf tournament Sunday, April 7, 2019, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

that was his fourth birdie in five holes.

Moore missed a birdie opportunity on the next hole when he couldn't convert on a putt from inside 10 feet. Minutes later, Conners sank a 10-footer to save par at No. 15, then hit to four feet to set up a birdie at the 175-yard par-3 16th. His birdie at No. 17 gave him a three-shot lead walking up the final hole.

Conners looked like he would tuck this one away early. He birdied four of the first five holes at TPC San Antonio. Trailing by a shot going in the final round,

he benefited from a three-stroke swing on the leaderboard on the third hole with a 10-foot putt on the par-3. Kim hit into the water fronting the green and double-bogeyed. Later in the day, Kim was grabbing at his right upper body with an apparent injury.

Conners was two strokes ahead, and with birdies on the next two holes he led by four over both Kim and Hoffman.

But Conners bogeyed the next four, and three of those came after tee shots put him in nice position either from the middle of the

fairway or close to it.

The other bogey, on a par-3 at No. 7, he hit his tee shot into a bunker, then blasted over the green.

"I told myself I could do it," Conners said. "I had been hitting a lot of quality shots. I was really relaxed. I had a lot of confidence in my game."

He made the turn and clicked off three consecutive birdies. The last player to qualify on Monday and win a PGA Tour event was Arjun Atwal in 2010 at the Wyndham Championship. That was the first time it had been done in 24 years. □

Astros top A's 9-8 on Altuve's bases-loaded walk in 9th

HOUSTON (AP) — The Astros are a deep, veteran team, making it tough for bench players like Tony Kemp and Aledmys Diaz to get onto the field.

That pair was ready Sunday, sparking Houston to a comeback win.

A little wild work from Oakland's most-feared reliever helped, too.

Jose Altuve drew a four-pitch walk from Athletics closer Blake Treinen with the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving the Astros a 9-8 win and a three-game sweep of their AL West rival.

Josh Reddick walked and Diaz singled off Treinen (0-1) to begin the ninth. Reddick was thrown out at third on a bunt by Robinson



Houston Astros' Jose Altuve reacts after drawing a walk with the bases loaded to win the game during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics, Sunday, April 7, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press

Chirinos.

Kemp walked to load the bases before Treinen struck out George Springer. Altuve never saw a strike, forcing home the winning run.

Treinen said he struggled with command of his hard, sinking fastball in the ninth, especially with Altuve.

"I didn't really give myself much of a chance to be successful at that at-bat," he said.

Roberto Osuna (1-0) struck out one in a perfect ninth.

The Astros scored five runs in the first but trailed 8-6 going into the eighth. Kemp homered off Lou Trivino, Springer followed with a flyball that dropped in shallow right field for a double and Treinen relieved. A single by Altuve set up Alex

Bregman's tying sacrifice fly.

"We're a hard lineup to crack when we're fully healthy, but contributions can come from anywhere," manager AJ Hinch said. "From an individual standpoint, these guys keep working and keep waiting for their name to be in the lineup. From a team standpoint, it makes us a more complete offense when our entire team is putting up good at-bats."

Kemp said individual work helps keep him ready when he has a chance to contribute.

"A couple of us, we know our role," he said. "We know we're not going to be in there every day but we know when our name's called it's important that we're ready to go. A lot of it has to do with preparation and a lot of it has to do with the time in the cage."

Oakland trailed by a run with one on and one out in the sixth when Josh Phegley connected on his first home run of the season off rookie Josh James, which bounced off the wall above the seats in left field to make it 7-6.

Chad Pinder, who drove in two runs in the first with a double, homered off Hector Rondon to start the A's eighth for an 8-6 lead.

Robbie Grossman homered with three RBIs and finished a triple shy of the cycle as the Athletics lost for the fourth time in five games.

The Athletics got a rough start from Mike Fiers, who allowed seven hits and six runs without getting out of the second inning. He entered the game having pitched 12 straight scoreless innings.

Houston starter Brad Peacock also struggled early, allowing four runs in the first two innings before settling in and giving up just one more run in the next three.

Diaz got his first hit as an Astro with a three-run homer in the first and drove in a fourth run with a bases-loaded walk. The Athletics took a 2-0 lead in the first when Pinder got a two-run double that hit roof before landing in left field. □

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Scherzer gets 1st win, Nats beat wild Mets 12-9

By SCOTT ORGERA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Starting for the third time in his club's first eight games, Washington ace Max Scherzer earned his first win in the least effective outing of the three.

Anthony Rendon backed him with a three-run homer, going deep for the fourth time in five games, and the Nationals were helped by 12 walks in a 12-9 win over the New York Mets on Sunday.

Scherzer (1-2) allowed four runs and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings with seven strikeouts, no walks and two hit batters, and he also singled in the game's first run. He lost his opening two starts for the first time in his big league career, to the Mets and Philadelphia, though he did go 0-3 over his first six starts in 2009.

Despite being struck on the right leg by a hard-hit grounder off the bat of Keon Broxton in the fifth inning, Scherzer recovered to make the play and remained in to face 10 more batters.

"It was fine during the game, was able to just kind of keep it moving so it didn't tighten up," Scherzer said, standing in front of his locker with his leg wrapped. "Once I came out of the game, once you lose the adrenaline, it tightened up pretty good. It kind of hurts to walk right now. but this is just a little bone bruise. I'll be fine."

Washington took two of three from their NL East rival.

"His leg got stiff there at the end so had to go get him out but Max being Max, he competed all day and he

pitched unbelievable," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said.

Washington opened a 12-1 lead by the seventh inning, when Rendon hit his fourth home run of the season, a drive off the facing of the second deck in left-center. Kurt Suzuki had two hits and two RBIs. Aside from Scherzer, every Nationals starter walked at least once.

Zack Wheeler (0-1) struggled to command his fastball and gave up seven runs, four hits and a career-high seven walks in 4 2/3 innings, throwing strikes on just 51 of 103 pitches.

"Just an embarrassing day for me," Wheeler said.

Reliever Tim Peterson threw a run-scoring wild pitch to his first batter and walked five, including one with the bases loaded. Mets pitchers had not walked 12 in a nine-inning game since March 31, 2003, on opening day against the Chicago Cubs.

"The command, the control, just too many walks," Mets manager Mickey Calaway said.

Washington took a 5-0 lead in the second, which included Victor Robles' RBI single, Adam Eaton's two-run double and Howie Kendrick's sacrifice fly, his first RBI since May 13. Kendrick returned Saturday from a ruptured right Achilles' tendon sustained last May 19. Mired in a 2-for-27 slump, Brandon Nimmo doubled in a run off of Scherzer in the seventh.

"You could tell he was tired, he was having a little bit more trouble commanding in the zone," Nimmo said. "That's not the Scherzer you're going to face the first time you go out there."

Rookie Pete Alonso hit a three-run homer against Matt Grace later in the inning, the rookie's third home run this season. He is the third player since at least 1908 with nine extra-base hits in his first nine games, joining Trevor Story and Alvin Davis.

ECONOMICAL OFFENSE

The Nationals were the first team to score at least 12 runs on eight hits or fewer since Toronto needed just eight hits to beat Detroit 12-6 on May 24, 1999.

WILD MAN

Nationals reliever Trevor Rosenthal hit a batter, threw two wild pitches and issued a walk in the eighth. Attempting to come back from Tommy John surgery, the former All-Star closer has not retired any of the nine batters he's faced this season, allowing seven runs.

"I've been super encouraged because of how good I feel but that's what makes it more frustrating, because I know it's there," Rosenthal said. "My stuff's there. I feel better than ever, really, but the results aren't happening so I definitely want to figure it out."

RELIEF REINFORCEMENTS

Washington recalled RHP Joe Ross from Triple-A Fresno and optioned INF Adrian Sanchez to Double-A Harrisburg. Usually a starter, Ross got just one out in the ninth before giving up Michael Conforto's three-run homer. According to Martinez, Ross will be used in relief to aid an ineffective bullpen that had a major league-worst 10.02 ERA entering Sunday.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Nationals: CF Michael A. Taylor (sprained right knee



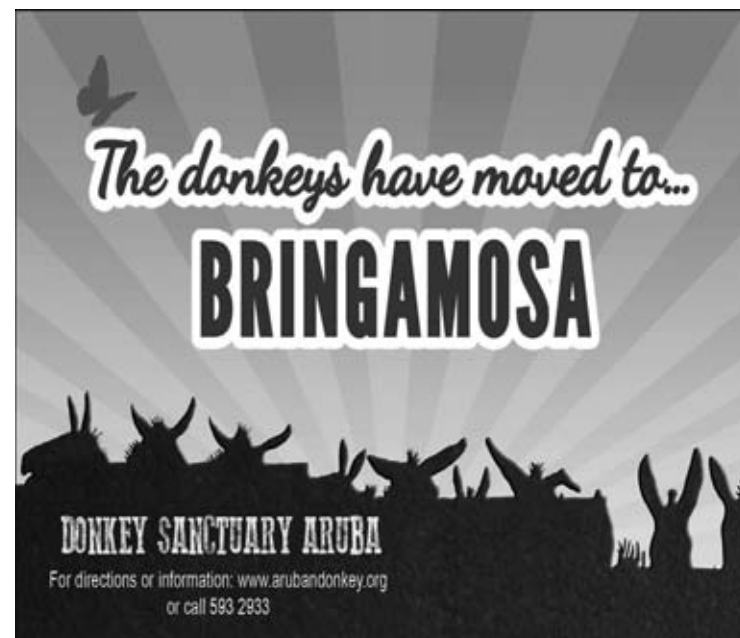
Washington Nationals' Max Scherzer (31) delivers a pitch during the second inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets Sunday, April 7, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

and hip) went 1 for 5 Sunday for Harrisburg as the designated hitter.

Mets: C Travis d'Arnaud (Tommy John surgery) was reinstated from the 10-

day IL, pinch hit in the seventh and moved behind the plate in his first major league appearance since April 8 last year. He grounded out and flied out.q



Westbrook's triple-double lifts Thunder past Wolves 132-126

By PATRICK DONNELLY

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Thunder are tough enough to beat when Russell Westbrook and Paul George are rolling. But when their bench players are locked in, too, Oklahoma City can be impossible to stop.

Westbrook and George each scored 27 points and Dennis Schroder had 14 of his 21 in the fourth quarter in a 132-126 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Sunday.

Schroder led a group of Thunder reserves that out-scored Minnesota's second team 44-26, and he changed the game early in the fourth quarter by scoring the final 10 points in a 12-0 run that vaulted the Thunder into a 109-101 lead.

"He's a starter anywhere else," George said of Schroder, who started the last two seasons in Atlanta before joining the Thunder mostly in a reserve role. "He's a big talent. It's a pleasure for us, myself especially as a shooter, to have a guy come in, step in and lift the group when we need baskets the most." Westbrook added 10 rebounds and 15 assists for his 32nd triple-double of the season as the Thunder remained a half-game



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) drives against Minnesota Timberwolves guard Jared Terrell (3) during the first half of a NBA basketball game Sunday, April 7, 2019, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

ahead of San Antonio for seventh place in the Western Conference.

"That's just what he does," said Timberwolves guard Josh Okogie, who spent most of the game guarding Westbrook. "He has great teammates around him that can make plays. He's a playmaker himself. He's aggressive, rebounds and can get to the rim."

Karl-Anthony Towns led Minnesota with 35 points, while Andrew Wiggins scored 24 and Dario Saric added 23. Tyus Jones scored 10 points

and tied his career high with 13 assists with zero turnovers for the Wolves.

Oklahoma City entered the fourth quarter trailing 97-95, but Schroder quickly took over as the Thunder's pick-and-roll offense gave Minnesota fits. In a four-minute span early in the fourth, Schroder converted three drives to the basket, hit two jump shots, and went 4 for 4 from the free-throw line.

"Russ and George are already a handful," Wiggins said. "When (Schroder) got going, a quick guard get-

ting to the rim and finishing, it did cause some problems."

The Thunder built a 115-103 lead, and Minnesota didn't get closer than four the rest of the way.

"Russell got the ball to him in areas of the floor where he can go be who he is," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "It's great to have a guy like that because he can generate offense for you by himself."

The Thunder opened the game by making five of their first six shots and led by 14 before Minnesota pushed back and cut the deficit to 38-31 after one. Westbrook and Terrance Ferguson scored nine apiece as the Thunder shot 7 of 13 on 3-point attempts. Leading 62-60 at halftime, Oklahoma City came out strong again, making its first six shots of the third quarter, including a 3-pointer and a dunk on consecutive possessions by George.

But Wiggins kept Minnesota afloat by making three straight jump shots. Then after Towns dunked twice, Saric hit four straight 3-pointers to put Minnesota on top 89-83.

"Some of their shots were tough ones that were going in," George said. "Those kind of shots, you have to just continue on playing,

and we did that."

George scored eight points in the final 40 seconds to cut Minnesota's lead to 97-95 after three.

After scoring 38 points in the first quarter, Oklahoma City closed the game out with a 37-point fourth quarter. It all added up to a Thunder victory and another in a long line of disappointing defensive performances for the Timberwolves this season.

"It wasn't just in the fourth. It was throughout the whole game, especially that first quarter. We've got to get stops," Jones said. "It's always frustrating. We're scoring enough points. We've got to make it tougher for teams on the defensive side of things."

TIP-INS

Thunder: The victory helped Oklahoma City avoid being swept by the Wolves this season. Minnesota had won the first three in the series this year. ... George has 288 3-pointers this season, the fifth highest single-season total for any player in NBA history.

Timberwolves: Before the game the Timberwolves honored Jones with the Flip Saunders Legacy Award for his contributions to the community. ... Minnesota has scored at least 100 points in a team-record 29 straight games. □



Team of USA celebrate a goal during the 2019 IIHF Women's World Championships preliminary match between USA and Canada in Espoo, Finland, Saturday April 6, 2019.

Associated Press

ESPOO, Finland (AP) — Dani Cameranesi scored two goals and had an assist as the United States shut out Switzerland 8-0 Sunday at the women's world championship. Megan Keller and Aman-

da Kessel scored two goals apiece as the U.S. remains undefeated through three games and atop Group A. Alex Carpenter had a goal and an assist, Hilary Knight had a goal and Emily Pfalzer had two assists as 12 dif-

U.S. women shut out Switzerland 8-0 in pool play at worlds

ferent Americans notched at least a point.

Carpenter's goal at 3:41 of the first period was the first of three in the first for the U.S. The Americans added one in the second and finished with four more in the third despite having a goal deflected by Annie Pankowski off a shot by Megan Bozek waved off by officials.

Maddie Rooney got the shutout in her first appearance this tournament, though she made only six saves for the U.S.

The Americans, who have won four straight world championships and seven

of the last eight, wrap up pool play Tuesday against Russia. The quarterfinals are Thursday.

"We stuck to our game plan, put a lot of pressure on the Swiss back end and we were rewarded with a win tonight," U.S. coach Bob Corkum said. "We're going to enjoy some time off tomorrow and be ready to take on Russia on Tuesday." Janine Alder made 49 saves for Switzerland, the only team in Group A without a point so far.

Sweden edged France 2-1 earlier Sunday, moving to third in Group B with four points behind the Czech

Republic (six) and Germany (five). Japan has one point and France is winless in three games.

Trailing 1-0 after one period, the Swedes got goals from Pernilla Winberg and Melinda Olsson in the second. Laura Escudero scored for the French. Sara Grahn stopped 19 of 20 shots for the win.

Canada, which lost 3-2 to the U.S. on Saturday, had a day off before back-to-back games against Russia and Finland. Canada, Finland and Russia were tied with three points each behind the Americans with six atop Group A. □

Baylor holds off Notre Dame 82-81 for women's title

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Baylor recovered after blowing a 17-point lead and losing a star player, beating Notre Dame 82-81 for the NCAA women's basketball championship Sunday night when 2018 tournament hero Arike Ogunbowale missed a foul shot in the final seconds.

Chloe Jackson made a layup to put Baylor ahead with 3.9 seconds left. Notre Dame called timeout and inbounded to Ogunbowale, whose buzzer-beating jumper in the championship game lifted Notre Dame to last year's title. Ogunbowale was fouled trying for a layup, then missed the first of two free throws with 1.9 seconds remaining. She made the second, but the Irish never got the ball back.

"They just kept doing what we've been taught to do, and that's guard people," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "We just beat the defending national champions. That team is so good, so talented. You're going to see those guys play at the next level. Wow."

The Lady Bears (37-1) won

their first championship in seven years. Mulkey and Baylor have won titles in 2005, 2012 and 2019. The 2012 championship game also pitted the Lady Bears against Muffet McGraw's Irish in the last meeting of two female coaches for the title.

Baylor was able to pull off the win without star forward Lauren Cox, who injured her knee in a frightening scene late in the third quarter. The Irish were able to rally from a 14-point deficit in the third quarter to tie it at 78 in the fourth. Jackson then scored a jumper from the foul line, and Jessica Shepard countered with two free throws to tie it, setting up the exciting finish.

"We had to do it for LC," said Jackson, who was named the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player. "She got us here. We had to finish the job for her."

The Lady Bears were primed to run away with the game as Notre Dame struggled to score. But the Irish have a knack for big comebacks, doing it against UConn in this year's semifinal and against Mississippi State in last season's title game, when they rallied from 15



The Baylor team raises the NCAA championship trophy after defeating Notre Dame 82-81 in the title game of the NCAA women's college basketball tournament Sunday, April 7, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

down in the third quarter. Ogunbowale was instrumental in all those victories, forever becoming a part of the Final Four during last year's title run. She made a shot with one second remaining to beat UConn in the semifinals, then hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer with

one-tenth of a second left to top the Bulldogs in the title game. Ogunbowale led the charge again Sunday, scoring 17 of her 31 points in the second half. That included a buzzer-beating 3 at the end of the third quarter, sparking an 11-0 Notre

Dame run. It helped the Irish that the Lady Bears had to play the last 11 minutes without Cox. She got tangled up with Kalani Brown on the defensive end and went down clutching her left knee with about a minute to go in the third quarter. □

Keys, seeded eighth and ranked 18th in the world, continually hit big serves — she reached 121 mph — and overwhelming forehands to wear down the fifth-seeded Wozniacki of Denmark and win her fourth career WTA event. The match turned after Wozniacki rallied from 0-30 down and survived three deuces to move in front 6-5 in the opening set. Keys steadied herself and won four straight points to set up the tiebreaker.

Keys fell behind 2-0, then won six of the next seven points including a backhand winner that Wozniacki let land inside the baseline while in good position for a shot. Keys closed the set with a crisp forehand.

Wozniacki said she believed Keys' shot was drifting long. "Sometimes you miscalculate in a bad moment," the former world

No. 1 said.

The second set was more of a runaway for Keys, who won four of the final five games. She won four consecutive points to break Wozniacki's serve, then won four more points to lead 5-2.

Wozniacki could not respond.

Keys was "just too good for me," said Wozniacki, who had beaten Keys in their only two previous meetings.

Keys beamed and bent her knees and elbows in celebration after putting away Wozniacki's return at the net on match point.

Her first win of the season continued a curious trend on the WTA of 15 different winners for the tour's first 15 tournaments this season.

It had been a disappointing stretch for Keys, whose best showing so far was reaching the round of 16 at the Australian Open.

She spent about 10 days working with Todero on clay before arriving in Charleston and believed their reunion might lead to positive results. Not even she envisioned this run, in which she defeated 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens in the quarterfinals, 2016 Olympic champion Monica Puig in the semifinals and Wozniacki, the 2018 Australian Open winner, for the title.

"I try not to put expectations as far as results on myself," Keys said. "I just really wanted to play the right way and have a really great week of practice and trying to get some matches, and then obviously as time went, feeling more and more confident out there and walking away as the winner."

Keys said Todero's personality works well with hers. She owns her up-and-down moments and said



Madison Keys celebrates after defeating Caroline Wozniacki, from Denmark, to win their finals match at the Volvo Car Open tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Associated Press

Todero has a way of keeping her upbeat, laughing and focused on the good things possible instead of past problems.

Keys was proud not only of out-hitting Wozniacki, but out-strategizing her as well. Key said her opponent was one of the most difficult on tour as far as finding open-

ings for breakthroughs on points because she is so precise and relentless. "I will be able to call on this going forward this year," she said.

As far as clay? "Clay-court specialist," Keys joked. "It's definitely moving up on my ranking list of favorite surfaces." □

Real or artificial? Tech titans declare AI ethics concerns

By **MATT O'BRIEN** and **RACHEL LERMAN**

Associated Press

The biggest tech companies want you to know that they're taking special care to ensure that their use of artificial intelligence to sift through mountains of data, analyze faces or build virtual assistants doesn't spill over to the dark side.

But their efforts to assuage concerns that their machines may be used for nefarious ends have not been universally embraced. Some skeptics see it as mere window dressing by corporations more interested in profit than what's in society's best interests.

"Ethical AI" has become a new corporate buzz phrase, slapped on internal review committees, fancy job titles, research projects and philanthropic initiatives. The moves are meant to address concerns over racial and gender bias emerging in facial recognition and other AI systems, as well as address anxieties about job losses to the technology and its use by law enforcement and the military.

But how much substance lies behind the increasingly public ethics campaigns? And who gets to decide which technological pursuits do no harm?

Google was hit with both questions when it formed a new board of outside advisers in late March to help guide how it uses AI in products. But instead of winning over potential critics, it sparked internal rancor. A little more than a week later, Google bowed to pressure from the backlash and dissolved the council.

The outside board fell apart in stages. One of the board's eight inaugural members quit within days and another quickly became the target of protests from Google employees who said her conservative views don't align with the company's professed values.

As thousands of employees called for the removal of Heritage Foundation President Kay Coles James, Google disbanded the



In this March 21, 2019 photo a robot called "Pepper" is positioned near an entrance to a Microsoft Store location, in Boston.

board last week.

"It's become clear that in the current environment, (the council) can't function as we wanted," the company said in a statement. That environment is one of increasing concern that the corporate AI ethics campaigns lack teeth.

"I think (Google's decision) reflects a broader public understanding that ethics involves more than just creating an ethics board without an institutional framework to provide for accountability," AI researcher Ben Wagner said.

Google's original initiative fell into a tech industry trend that Wagner calls "ethics-washing," which he describes as a superficial effort that's mostly a show for the public or lawmakers. "It's basically an attempt to pretend like you're doing ethical things and using ethics as a tool to reach an end, like avoiding regulation," said Wagner, an assistant professor at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. "It's a new form of self-regulation without calling it that by name." Big companies have made an increasingly visible effort to discuss their AI efforts in recent years.

Microsoft, which often tries to position itself as an industry leader on ethics and privacy issues, published its principles around developing AI, released a short book that discussed the societal implications of the technology and has called for some government regulation of AI technologies.

The company's president

even met with Pope Francis earlier this year to discuss industry ethics. Amazon recently announced it is helping fund federal research into "algorithmic fairness," and Salesforce employs an "architect" for ethical AI practice, as well as a "chief ethical and human use" officer. It's hard to find a brand-name tech firm without similar initiatives.

It's a good thing that companies are studying the issue and seeking perspectives on industry ethics, said Oren Etzioni, CEO of the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, a research organization. But ultimately, he said, a company's CEO is tasked with deciding what suggestions on AI ethics to incorporate in business decisions.

"I think overall it's a positive step rather than a fig leaf," he said. "That said, the proof is in successful implementation. I think the jury is still out on that."

The impact artificial intelligence can have on society has never been more clear, Etzioni said, and companies are reacting to studies about the power of recommendation algorithms and gender bias in AI.

But as Google's attempt shows, discussing the issues in the public eye also invites public scrutiny.

Google employees have had more success than other tech workers at demanding change at their company. The internet search behemoth dropped a contract with the Pentagon after employees pushed back on the ethi-



In this Jan. 5, 2019, file photo people stand in front of the Google tent during preparations for CES International in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

cal implications of using the company's AI technology to analyze drone video.

And after more than 2,400 Google employees signed a petition calling for James to be taken off the board, Google scrapped the board altogether. Employees said James has made past comments that were anti-trans and anti-immigrant and should not be on an ethics panel. The Heritage Foundation did not respond to a request for comment.

Google had also faced dissent from its chosen councilmembers. Alessandro Acquisti, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, announcing on Twitter he was declining the invitation. He wrote that he is devoted to grappling fairness and inclusion in AI but this was not the "the right forum for me to engage in this important work." He declined to comment further.

One expert who had committed to staying on the council is Joanna Bryson, associate professor in computing at the University of Bath.

A self-described liberal, she said before the dissolution that it makes sense to have political diversity on the panel, and she didn't agree with those who think it's just for show.

"I just don't think Google is that stupid," Bryson said. "I don't think they're there just to have a poster on a wall." She said, however, that companies like Google and Microsoft do have a real concern about liability — meaning they want

to make sure they show themselves, and the public, that they've tried their best to build products the right way before releasing them. "It's not just the right thing to do, it's the thing they need to do," she said. Bryson said she was hopeful Google actually wanted to brainstorm hard problems and should find another way to do so after the council dissolved.

It's unclear what Google will do next. The company said its "going back to the drawing board" and would find other ways of getting outside opinions.

Wagner said now would be the time for Google to set up ethics principles that include commitments they must stick to, external oversight and other checkpoints to hold them accountable. Even if companies keep setting up external boards to oversee AI responsibility, government regulation will still be needed, said Liz O'Sullivan, a tech worker who left AI company Clarifai over the company's work in the Pentagon's Project Maven — the same project that Google dropped after its employees protested.

O'Sullivan is wary of boards that can make suggestions that companies are under no legal obligation to stick to.

"Every company of that size that states they're interested in having some sort of oversight that has no ability or authority to restrict or restrain company behavior seems like they're doing it for the press of it all," she said. □

What students can learn from the days before college loans

By ANNA HELHOSKI

Associated Press

College tuition was less than what today's students pay for textbooks when Caron and Jack Knopoff attended Chicago's Wright Junior College in the mid-1960s.

Tuition at what is now Wilbur Wright College was \$24 per credit hour, Caron Knopoff says. To cover this cost, the couple, who were dating at the time, lived with their own parents and worked — Caron at an insurance agency and Jack at an accounting firm.

Caron later transferred to Northeastern Illinois University to complete her bachelor's degree in primary education. There, she says tuition was around \$200 a year. Jack completed a degree in accounting at Roosevelt University, paying \$40 per credit hour.

"I thought it was so much compared to what we had paid before and we were so worried about it," Caron says.

Graduating from college debt-free is uncommon today: Two-thirds of the class of 2017 graduated with student loans averaging \$28,650, according to The Institute for College Access and Success.

Before the 1960s, student loans didn't exist. Federal loans for students with financial need started with the Higher Education Act of 1965, then opened to all students in 1978.

Here's what paying for college looked like back in the day, and what today's stu-



In this March 14, 2019, file photo students walk on the Stanford University campus in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

dents can learn.

COLLEGE COST A LOT LESS

The average cost of tuition, fees, room and board for 1963-64 was \$1,248, or \$10,040 in 2017-18 dollars. By contrast, the average cost in 2017-18 was \$23,835, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. "The cost of college then was significantly easier to pay for," says Victoria Yuen, a policy analyst for postsecondary education at the Center for American Progress, an independent policy research organization. "Now, even with scholarships and grant support, it's become very difficult for middle-class families to pay for college."

But half a century ago, college wasn't affordable for everyone. Those who couldn't pay out-of-pocket

didn't go, says John Thelin, a University of Kentucky professor and author of "Going to College in the Sixties."

FEWER PEOPLE ATTENDED COLLEGE

Before student loans, fewer people enrolled in college because a degree wasn't as necessary to compete in the workforce. Less than half of high school graduates enrolled in college in 1960, compared with nearly 70% in 2017, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Back then, high school graduates could get jobs that supported a middle-class lifestyle. That's much more difficult now, says Sandy Baum, a nonresident fellow at the Center on Education Data and Policy at the Urban Institute, a non-

profit research organization.

"It wasn't perceived as a national mission for people to go to college," Baum says.

STUDENT JOBS HELPED COVER EXPENSES

Students often used a mix of sources to foot the bill. Many had family support, worked or got scholarships from local organizations or their colleges.

That's how Caroline Pickens of McLean, Virginia, met college costs when she enrolled in 1958. Growing up in a middle-class family in Wichita, Kansas, the most affordable option was Kansas State University, which she remembers was around \$100 per semester for tuition, room and board. "I worked in a bank every summer at minimum wage,

which was \$1 an hour," says Pickens, who received a bachelor's degree in history and secondary education and a master's in European history at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. "I needed to do that in order to pay."

In those days, colleges also offered "bursar jobs," which were similar to the current federal work-study awards. "It was possible to meet a lot of your annual college expenses with a summer job or working on campus during your academic year," Thelin says.

PARENTS PAID, TOO

In the early 1960s — in the beginning stages of the federal student loan program — colleges started offering need-based scholarships, grants, work-study and their own loans to attract top high school students, Thelin says. But many students still required financial support from their families. Dian Olson Belanger, a writer and historian in Rockville, Maryland, got a scholarship to attend a community college in her home state of Minnesota before transferring to University of Minnesota Duluth. In 1962, she finished her bachelor's degree early to marry her high-school sweetheart, who was attending the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California. Both relied on their parents to cover costs, though Belanger says it was a stretch for her family. □

US consumer borrowing gains slow in February

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer borrowing rose at a slower pace in February as the increase in auto and student loans was the slowest in eight months.

Borrowing increased by \$15.2 billion in February, down from a gain of \$17.7 billion in January, the Federal Reserve reported Friday.

Borrowing for auto loans and student loans rose by \$12.2 billion, the smallest gain since last June. Bor-

rowing for credit card debt rose by \$2.95 billion, the biggest increase since November.

The overall increases pushed consumer borrowing to a new record of \$4.05 trillion.

Household borrowing is watched for signs of how confident consumers are in taking on more debt to finance their spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity. Consumer spending is ex-

pected to rebound this quarter following a slowdown during the winter.

The Labor Department reported Friday that employers added a solid 196,000 jobs in March, up sharply from the February gain. Analysts saw the job gains as a good sign that borrowing and spending should post good gains in coming months.

The overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, slowed to

a modest annual rate of 2.2 percent in the fourth quarter with economists believing growth slowed further to around 1.5 percent in the current quarter. But they are forecasting a rebound to around 2.3 percent GDP growth in the current April-June quarter.

The Fed's monthly report on consumer credit does not cover mortgages or other loans secured by real estate such as home equity loans. □

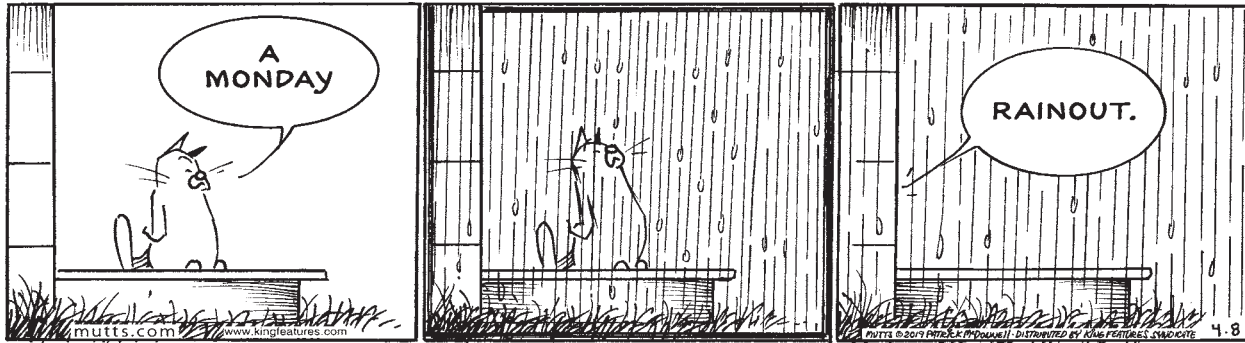
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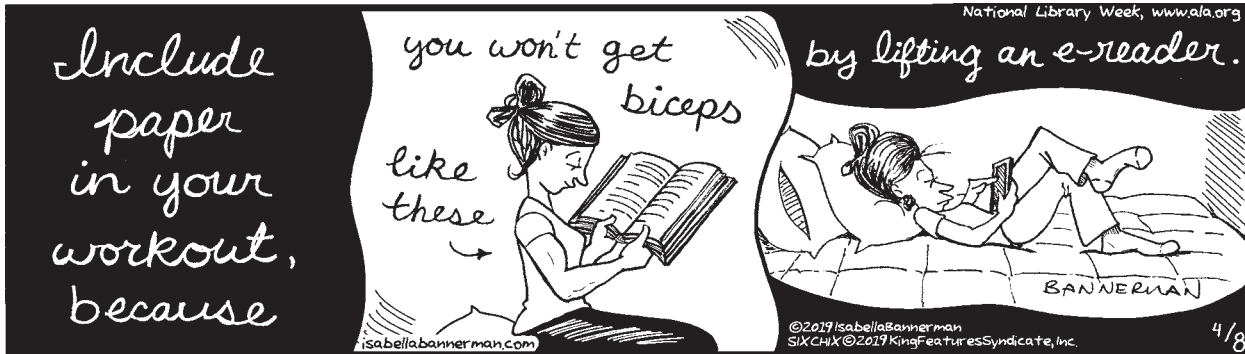
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		8		9	5		2	
						7		5
5			6		4	9	3	
	7		2		5			6
2			8	4	9			3
4	3		7		2			
	4	5	2		7			9
3	1							
	6		4	3		8		

Difficulty Level ★

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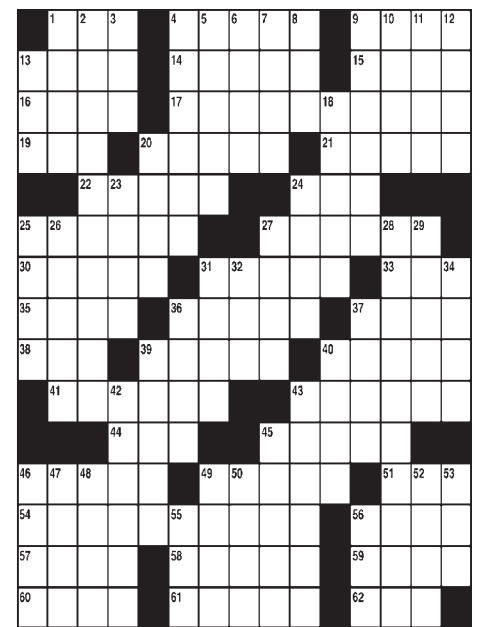
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

6	4	9	7	3	8	5	1	2
3	8	1	4	2	5	6	7	9
7	5	2	1	6	9	8	4	3
9	2	4	5	8	3	1	6	7
8	7	6	9	4	1	3	2	5
5	1	3	6	7	2	9	8	4
4	9	8	2	5	6	7	3	1
1	3	7	8	9	4	2	5	6
2	6	5	3	1	7	4	9	8

ACROSS

- 1 Large
- 4 Misbehave
- 9 Border on
- 13 Rational
- 14 Humiliation
- 15 Duplicate
- 16 West or Sandler
- 17 "...and lead us not into ..."
- 19 Last calendar pg.
- 20 Piles
- 21 Winnie-the-Pooh's creator
- 22 Diagram
- 24 Andrew Cuomo's title: abbr.
- 25 Assumes a catcher's position
- 27 On the up and up
- 30 Sounds like a contented cat
- 31 For the time __; temporarily
- 33 Hoodwink
- 35 Peruse
- 36 Exchange
- 37 Destiny
- 38 "Not __"; words to the impatient
- 39 Babble
- 40 Support one's parish
- 41 Approached
- 43 Breathed heavily
- 44 Recline
- 45 Throw water over
- 46 San Antonio tourist stop
- 49 Sow
- 51 Tease
- 54 Unable to tell red from green
- 56 Lay it on the __; speak bluntly
- 57 Linden & Holbrook
- 58 1/16 of a pound
- 59 __ more; again
- 60 Correct a manuscript
- 61 Actor Ed
- 62 Word of disgust



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/8/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

MOPE	ATLAS	STEM
AWRY	DRESS	THAI
KNEE	MUSKETEERS	
ESS	JIMS	REELS
USURP	FED	
CAPONE	COASTS	
APPLE	BLOAT	UPS
SHOE	GLEAM	GRIT
HIS	CRUEL	CAPRI
DEALER	METEOR	
VOW	HELEN	
CATON	HEAL	TIC
UNYIELDING	RICCA	
BOND	OUNCE	SNAP
AXES	PETER	TENS

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4/8/19

DOWN

- 1 Commanded
- 2 Wrong
- 3 Onyx or amethyst
- 4 Fall flowers
- 5 One not to be trusted
- 6 Pat down, as soil
- 7 Diamond officials
- 8 Flea collar wearer
- 9 On the go
- 10 Sore as a __
- 11 Come __; find
- 12 Actress Daly
- 13 Downcast
- 18 Surrounded by
- 20 Head toppers
- 23 Difficult
- 24 No longer here
- 25 Nimble
- 26 Part of a royal flush
- 27 Keep secret
- 28 Strewing about
- 29 __ max; fully
- 31 Actor Garrett
- 32 "Please Don't __ the Daisies"
- 34 Have to have
- 36 Juniper or dogwood
- 37 Swim __; diver's flippers
- 39 __ to; before

- 40 Tight, as a rope
- 42 Just about
- 43 Think over
- 45 Ballroom event
- 46 Muscle pain
- 47 Washerful
- 48 __ want for Christmas is my two front teeth...
- 49 Adder's sign
- 50 Actor Rex __
- 52 Part of a foot
- 53 Flying insect
- 55 Dangerous critter
- 56 __ Diamond Phillips

Reintroduced California condors could reach Oregon

Associated Press

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — A plan to reintroduce the California condor to the Redwood National Forest could mean the giant raptors will eventually repopulate Oregon's Rogue Valley as well, a newspaper reported Friday.

Northern California's Yurok Tribe, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently issued a detailed plan for the reintroduction in an environmental impact report, The Mail Tribune reported. The reintroduction in California's Redwood National Forest could also lead the birds to return to parts of southern Oregon, which was once a part of the raptor's historic range.

The last condor sighting in Oregon was in the town of Drain in 1904.

The plan, which could go into effect as early as next year, includes the caveat that condors would be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as "nonessential, experimental," providing bird protection but more flexibility for landowners than if classified as endangered, because it would create no critical habitat for condors, authorities said.

If the assessment passes muster and release permits are secured, condors hatched at the Oregon Zoo in Portland, Oregon,



In this June 21, 2017 file photo, California condors huddle around a watering hole in the Ventana Wilderness east of Big Sur, Calif. Associated Press

could be in the air over the Klamath River next year, with planned releases of six birds a year over 20 years, said Tiana Williams-Claussen, a Yurok biologist and tribe member.

"We haven't had him for 100 years," she said. "We continue to dance, but it's very important that he actually comes home to Yurok country so he can directly participate in our ceremonies."

Analysis during the assessment shows that condors should do well in Northern California as well as in the Rogue Valley. "It's expected that once they get there they should be able to do well and be able to use the environment and move around and get what they need. It's just a matter of finding the path there in the first place," Williams-Claussen said.

The assessment does not call for any ban on lead bullets in Oregon, but an unrelated statewide ban on lead bullets goes into effect in California in July, said Candace Tinkler of the National Park Service.

Lead ingestion from eating gut piles left by hunters, along with poisoning from banned chemicals such as DDT, are two of the reasons condors landed on the endangered species list. Currently lead bullets are banned in condor country in Southern California.

Thursday's announcement came more than five years after a five-year study concluded that reintroduction of condors was promising and would expand the geographic scope of recovery efforts already in progress in Southern California, the Southwest and Mexico. □

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Smoking pot vs. tobacco: What science says about lighting up

NEW YORK (AP) — As more states make it legal to smoke marijuana, some government officials, researchers and others worry what that might mean for one of the country's biggest public health successes: curbing cigarette smoking. Though there are notable differences in health research findings on tobacco and marijuana, the juxtaposition strikes some as jarring after generations of Americans have gotten the message that smoking endangers their health.

"We're trying to stop people from smoking all kinds of things. Why do you want to legalize marijuana?" a New York City councilman, Republican Peter Koo, asked at a recent city hearing about the state's potential legalization of so-called recreational pot use.

Marijuana advocates say there's no comparison between joints and tobacco cigarettes. A sweeping federal assessment of marijuana research found the lung-health risks of smoking weed appear "relatively small" and "far lower than those of smoking tobacco," the top cause of preventable death in the U.S.

Unlike for cigarettes, there's evidence of certain health benefits from marijuana, such as easing chronic pain. And marijuana can be used without smoking it. Most states now have legal medical pot programs; 10 states and the District of Columbia have approved recreational use.

"They're different products, and they need to be treated differently," says Mason Tvert, a spokesman for the pro-legalization Marijuana Policy Project.

At the same time, studies have shown crossover between marijuana and



In this Friday, March 29, 2019 photo, a man smokes a joint at a Spleef NYC canna-cocktail party in New York.

Associated Press

tobacco use. And while smoking cannabis may be less dangerous than tobacco to lung health, pot doesn't get an entirely clean slate.

Some health officials and anti-smoking activists also worry about inserting legal marijuana into the growing world of vaping, given uncertainties about the smoking alternative's long-term effects.

Here's a look at the issues, science and perspectives:

SMOKING POT VS. TOBACCO

While cigarette smoking is the top risk factor for lung cancer, some of scientific evidence suggests there's no link between marijuana smoking and lung cancer. That's according to a 2017 federal report that rounded up nearly two decades of studies on marijuana, research that's been limited by the federal government's classification of marijuana as a controlled substance like heroin.

While cigarette smoking is

a major cause of heart disease, the report concluded it's unclear whether marijuana use is associated with heart attacks or strokes.

But there's strong evidence linking long-term cannabis smoking to worse coughs and more frequent bouts of chronic bronchitis, according to the report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

The report also looked at other effects, finding a mix of possible risks, upsides and unknowns. For example, the report said marijuana can ease chemotherapy-related nausea and adults' chronic pain but also found evidence the drug is linked to developing schizophrenia and getting in traffic crashes.

In recent weeks, studies have echoed concerns about high-potency pot and psychosis and documented a rise in marijuana-related emergency room visits after legalization in Colorado.

Tobacco and marijuana use can also go together. Blunts — marijuana in a cigar wrapper that includes tobacco leaves — have gained popularity. And studies have found more cigarette smokers have used pot, and the other way around, compared to nonsmokers.

"One substance reinforces

the use of the other, and vice versa, which can escalate a path to addiction," says Dr. Sterling McPherson, a University of Washington medical professor studying marijuana and tobacco use among teens.

The National Academies report found pot use likely increases the risk of dependence on other substances, including tobacco.

To some public health officials, it makes sense to legalize marijuana and put some guardrails around it.

"For tobacco, we know that it's inherently dangerous and that there is no safe amount of tobacco to use," says New York City Health Department drug policy analyst Rebecca Giglio. Whereas with marijuana, "we see this as an opportunity to address the harms of criminalization while also regulating cannabis."

But health department opinions vary, even within the same state: New York's Association of County Health Officials opposes legalizing recreational weed.

SO WHAT ABOUT VAPING?

Vaping — heating a solution into a vapor and inhaling it — has been pitched as a safer alternative to smoking.

Experts have said vaping pot is probably less harmful to the lungs than smoking it, though there's little

research on the health effects over time, and they worry about its potency when vaped.

The American Lung Association is concerned that vaping will ultimately prove damaging to lung health and is alarmed about a surge in underage e-cigarette use. And adding legal marijuana to the picture "only makes it a more complicated issue," says Erika Sward, an assistant vice president.

Others, though, think policymakers should view vaping as a relatively safe way to use pot.

"I would say the risks are going to be less with that form of consumption," says Rebecca Haffajee, a University of Michigan health policy professor who co-wrote a 2017 piece calling for recreational marijuana programs to allow only nonsmokable forms of the drug.

Meanwhile, some local governments have adjusted public smoking bans to cover both vaping and pot. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors tweaked its prohibition just last month.

TWO VIEWS

As a former cigarette smoker, New Yorker Gary Smith is dismayed that his home state might OK smoking pot.

He knows research hasn't tied smoking marijuana to lung cancer, which killed three cigarette smokers in his family and struck him 20 years after he quit; he's been treated. But he fears the respiratory risks of marijuana smoking aren't fully known.

"It's crazy that the government, in order to raise (revenue from) taxes, they're permitting people to suck this stuff into your lungs," says Smith, 78, an accountant from Island Park.

Hawaii physician and state Rep. Richard Creagan feels no less strongly about cigarettes. The ex-smoker and Democrat from Naalehu this year unsuccessfully proposed all but banning them by raising the legal age to 100. □



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Bennett and Belafonte among those honored at Apollo gala

By HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Bennett had few words to say, but many more to sing. Bennett was among the honorees Thursday night at "A Great Night in Harlem," the annual fundraiser for the Jazz Foundation of America.

Introduced by Ben Stiller to a capacity audience at the Apollo Theater, Bennett didn't have a speech prepared but was ready to perform. His range and timing sharp as ever at age 92, Bennett crooned the Gershwin standard "Love is Here To Stay," and picked up the tempo for his signature "I Left My Heart in San Francisco." He placed his hand over his heart, extended his arms and left to a sound he's known for decades—warm and lasting applause.

It was a night of celebration, mourning, protest and affirmation, all tied to the anniversary of the death of Rev. Martin King Jr., assassinated on April 4, 1968. Bennett and fellow lifetime achievement award winner Harry Belafonte both knew King well, as did

civil rights activist Andrew Young, who stood in for the 92-year-old Belafonte and recalled how much King relied on his input and how much Belafonte contributed financially and through his connections to the entertainment world.

Without Belafonte, Young said, "we might not have even had a movement."

A Belafonte friend and disciple, actor Danny Glover was one of the night's hosts, and he introduced a speaker not previously billed — Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent and candidate for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2020. Greeted enthusiastically by a capacity audience at the Apollo, Sanders cited a part of King's legacy that tied in with the working class themes of his campaign: King had been killed while supporting striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee.

Other anniversaries were noted on Thursday, including what would have been the 80th birthday of the South African musician and activist Hugh Masekela, who died last year. Two of



Tony Bennett performs onstage at the Jazz Foundation of America's 17th annual "A Great Night In Harlem" gala concert at the Apollo Theater on Thursday, April 4, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

his children spoke on his behalf and some of his former bandmates performed his hit "Grazing in the Grass,"

recorded just weeks before King's death and released a month after.

With Quincy Jones seated

in the front row, and called out by numerous performers, the music spanned a range of styles and genres worthy of Jones himself. The Count Basie Orchestra, for whom Jones wrote and arranged in the 1950s and '60s, played big band jazz. There was rap from Common and his supergroup, August Greene; punk from Patti Smith and a tap dance-jazz duet between Savion Glover and Patience Higgins. The night ended with a blues jam featuring Sweet Georgia Brown on vocals and a black-hatted Bruce Willis on harp, and Danny Glover leading a sing-a-long of Belafonte's signature "Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)," calling out "Daaaaay O!" to the rafters and beyond. □

Iron Maiden singer made honorary citizen of Bosnia's capital

By ELDAR EMRIC
Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnia's capital city made Iron Maiden lead singer Bruce Dickinson an honorary citizen Saturday for a concert he performed while Sarajevo was under siege during the 1992-95 war.

Mayor Abdulah Skaka presented the award at a ceremony in Sarajevo City Hall, which was badly damaged during the long Bosnian Serb siege of the city and since restored.

"The arrival of Mr. Dickinson in Sarajevo in 1994 was one of those moments that made us in Sarajevo realize that we will survive, that the city of Sarajevo will survive, that Bosnia-Herzegovina

will survive," said Skaka.

Saturday was Sarajevo Day, which marks the city's 1945 liberation during World War II and the start in 1992 of the Bosnian Serb siege that killed more than 11,000 people, including 1,600 children.

Dickinson, who also walked through the city center greeting people and signing autographs, said that "it's a great honor to be given the honorary citizenship of Sarajevo."

"In a world where things only last for about five seconds on social media ... people are still remembering it. That's really quite something," he told The Associated Press. "This is a brilliant day, a lovely day and it's great to be back." □

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'Shazam!' debuts with \$53.5M, handing DC Comics another win

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven films in, the DC Extended Universe is finally flying with some wind behind its back. The well-reviewed, relatively modestly budgeted "Shazam!" debuted with \$53.5 million in ticket sales over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, handing DC its latest critical and box-office success.

Though one of the oldest characters in DC's superhero stable, "Shazam!" doesn't boast the name-recognition of Batman or Superman. But by scaling back to a \$100 million budget and going for the lighter, comic tone, "Shazam!" steadily built up its word of mouth with stellar reviews. Warner Bros. also showed the film nationwide two weeks before opening, where it made \$3 million in



This image released by Warner Bros. shows Zachary Levi, left, and Jack Dylan Grazer in a scene from "Shazam!"

Associated Press

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<p>PG-13</p>	<p>ZACHARY LEVI MICHELLE BORTH</p> <p>SHAZAM!</p> <p>CXC</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>MON-THU 5:00 7:50 FRI 5:00 7:50 10:40 SAT 2:10 5:00 7:50 10:40 SUN 2:10 5:00 7:50</p> <p>VIP</p> <p>MON-THU 3:40 6:30 9:20 SAT-SUN 12:50 3:40 6:30 9:20</p>
	<p>ZACH GALIFIANAKIS ZOE SALDANA</p> <p>MISSING LINK</p> <p>WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>MON-THU 4:15 SAT-SUN 2:00 4:15</p>
<p>R</p>	<p>JASON CLARKE AMY SEIMETZ</p> <p>PET SEMATARY</p> <p>MON-THU 4:55 7:15 9:35 FRI 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SAT 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SUN 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35</p>
	<p>DEV PATEL ARMIE HAMMER</p> <p>HOTEL MUMBAI</p> <p>MON-SUN 9:30</p>
<p>NR</p>	<p>COLIN FARRELL MICHAEL KEATON</p> <p>DUMBO</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>MON-FRI 4:10 6:35 9:00 SAT-SUN 1:50 4:10 6:35 9:00</p> <p>SENSORY FRIENDLY PRESENTATION SATURDAY, APRIL 6 AT 1:00PM</p>
	<p>BRIE LARSON SAMUEL L. JACKSON</p> <p>CAPTAIN MARVEL</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>MON-SUN 6:30 9:15</p> <p>PG-13</p>
<p>PG</p>	<p>TYLER PERRY CASSI DAVIS</p> <p>A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL</p> <p>MON-SUN 9:30</p> <p>PG-13</p>
	<p>OPENING APRIL 11: BREAKTHROUGH, LITTLE, VENEZUELA ES UN DESORDEN, HELLBOY</p>

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advance screenings. "Shazam!" came out well ahead of the weekend's other top draw, "Pet Sematary." Paramount Pictures' remake of the original 1989 Stephen King adaptation opened in a distant second with \$25 million. It's a solid start for "Pet Sematary," though far from the haul that the last big-screen adaptation of King's conjured up: "It" opened with \$123.4 million in 2017. Last week's top film, "Dumbo," slid steeply in its second week. Landing in third, the Disney live-action remake dropped 60% with \$18.2 million. Pitched as "'Big' meets Superman," "Shazam!" stars Asher Angel as Billy Batson, a teenage foster kid who transforms into an adult superhero (played by Zachary Levi). Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief at Warner Bros., said the studio originally forecast a \$40 million opening. "That was the right number for us," Goldstein said. "That's what we needed to make money on it." But expectations grew based on reviews (91% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and audience reaction (an "A" Cinemascore). The PG-13-rated film attracted an especially young crowd; 45% were under 25. The result further validated DC's pivot following the disappointments of Zack

Snyder's "Batman v Superman" and David Ayer's "Suicide Squad." Warner Bros. has since steered its comic book adaptations in a different direction, leaning more on stand-alone entries less predicated on the overall "universe" and more fluctuating in tone. Earlier in the week, Warner Bros. also teased the DC release "Joker," with Joaquin Phoenix, at CinemaCon. An even smaller-budgeted origin story with a similarly unique, albeit much darker, tone; it was one of the most talked-about movies at the Las Vegas event. "'Wonder Woman' was really the start of changing the ship," Goldstein said. "When you look at each of these properties, they're all very different. Their approach is different. Their tone is different. But here's the commonality: All good movies, all well done. I think that's what you'll see out of DC is very specific approaches for that property." Overseas, "Shazam!" grossed \$102 million in 79 markets, including \$30.9 million in China. "DC has really found its groove," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "They're really breaking out each character. Shazam and the Joker could not two more different characters within the DC Universe. But I think that diversity of content is

going to serve them well." Dergarabedian noted the two most dominant genres in movies right now — superheroes and horror — swamped theaters, taking up four of the top five spots at the box office. The stiff competition in similar-styled holdovers could have slightly depressed results for both "Shazam!" and "Pet Sematary." But right now, there is little room on the calendar between major comic book films and horror releases. In fourth was Jordan Peele's horror thriller "Us," which added \$13.8 million in its third week. Its cumulative global total stands at \$216.6 million. Marvel's Brie Larson-led "Captain Marvel," which recently crossed \$1 billion in worldwide ticket sales, took in \$12.7 million domestically in its fifth weekend. Captain Marvel, ironically, was Shazam's original name when the character was first crafted, as a Superman knockoff, in 1939. He was relaunched in 1973 as Shazam after decades of lawsuits and the debut of Marvel's own Captain Marvel. The weekend's other wide-release newcomer was STX Entertainment's "Best of Enemies," starring Taraji P. Henson as a civil rights activist and Sam Rockwell as a Ku Klux Klan leader. It opened with \$4.5 million. □

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Henson, Hadid give emotional remarks at Variety honors

NEW YORK (AP) — Taraji P. Henson teared up as she discussed suicide rates among young black people. Gigi Hadid did the same as she spoke about the fate of the Rohingya people in refugee camps in Bangladesh. The two were among five celebrities honored Friday for their philanthropic work at Variety's annual Power of Women event in New York. Bette Midler spoke passionately about her restoration work cleaning up neighborhoods in New York City through the organization she founded in 1995. Singer Kacey Musgraves talked about the importance of arts education for young people, particularly music. And journalist Christiane Amanpour evoked the grave dangers faced by reporters uncovering truths around the world, and especially decried the use of the term "fake news" as a

weapon against journalists. "Increasingly we are in a war from within our own democratic societies where we are bludgeoned over the head day after day by this untruthful trope of fake news. It is very, very difficult to keep going," she said. Honored for her work with the Committee to Protect Journalists, Amanpour made a note of praising Jacinda Ardern, prime minister of New Zealand, for her leadership in the wake of the recent mass shooting in Christchurch in which 50 people died. "Out of the most brutal and unspeakable tragedy, she rose to the occasion like I've seen very few world leaders do," she said of Ardern. "That's power." The annual event was hosted by comedian Michelle Wolf, who riffed on recent news stories like the college admissions scandal and accusations of unwanted



touching by former vice president Joe Biden. Honoree Taraji P. Henson attends Variety's Power of Women: New York presented by Lifetime at Cipriani 42nd Street on Friday, April 5, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

Also appearing at the event were several accusers of R&B star R. Kelly who had participated in the Lifetime documentary "Surviving R. Kelly." Lisa Van Allen, Asante McGee and Kitti Jones received a standing ovation from the crowd. Hadid, introduced by Jimmy Fallon, was honored for her work with UNICEF. The 23-year-old supermodel spoke not only about her experience in Bangladesh visiting Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, but her use of social media as a force for good. "I feel resentment toward social media at times, but as I documented my trip with UNICEF, I understood the true value: someone is listening," she said. "We cannot let the negative comments, the bad energy, and false assumptions of us keep us from doing the good we know we can do with our platforms." □

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